TUESDAY
April 14, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 88

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe,
give a missed call at
9828331787
or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Social Welfare Department

"Education is the most important weapon to raise the standard of living of the people"

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

135th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Garlanding the Statue of

Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.00 AM
East Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Stage Event

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.30 AM
Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

As is enshrined in our constitution, **"to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture"** - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

Secretary to Government
Social Welfare Department

@SWDGok

J BG-BGE

TUESDAY
April 14, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 88

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

PILING PRESSURE

Iran threatens ports as U.S. pushes blockade

WORLD » PAGE 14

NEW FACE IN HUNGARY

Magyar ends hard-right Orban's 16-year rule

WORLD » PAGE 15

DAZZLING DISPLAY

Kishan, Praful and Sakib star for SRH

SPORT » PAGE 15

SC raps EC on SIR 'discrepancies', says voting is a sentimental right

The poll body departed from its promise to leave voters on 2002 rolls untouched during the SIR; the category of 'logical discrepancy' was unique to West Bengal, top court says; it notes that the act of voting is the biggest expression of nationality

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday told the Election Commission (EC) that the right to be on the electoral roll and to vote in one's own country was not only constitutional but also sentimental.

The top court was referring to lakhs of voters excluded for "logical discrepancies" lining up for appeal hearings in West Bengal, hardly 10 days ahead of the Assembly election, following an "inquisitorial" special intensive revision (SIR).

34 lakh appeals

The court said 34 lakh appeals by voters purged from the West Bengal electoral roll had been filed for hearing before 19 appellate tribunals and there were over a lakh appeals pending before each of these tribunals.

The poll body had locked in the electoral roll for the State on April 9, days ahead of the polling on April 23 and 29.

After months of interventions to make the SIR more inclusive, the top court made cutting remarks about the impact of an exercise the poll body said was necessary to "purify the electoral roll".

"The right to remain on the electoral roll, the right to vote in the country you are born in is something which is not only constitutional but sentimental. It is the biggest expression of nationality and patriotism that you are in a participatory process to elect a democratic government," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said while addressing the poll body.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, for the poll body, said "statistics" proved West Bengal did not "stand out" and was "on par" with other States in the number of exclusions.

'Question of fairness'

"We are not bothered about West Bengal 'standing out'. But no other State has a category called 'logical discrepancy'. We have examined Bihar, we did not find a single person flagged for logical discrepancy... This is not a question of inflating or shrinking the EC, but of fairness," Justice Bagchi said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Ballot proof While the EC had frozen the West Bengal electoral rolls on April 9, the top court noted that 34 lakh appeals have been filed before 19 tribunals across the State

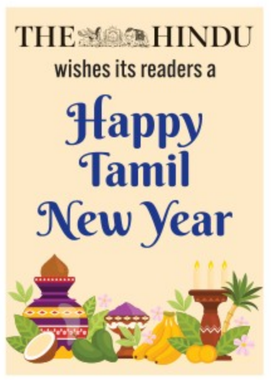
Ruling awaited: People gather to appeal before a tribunal over issues related to the SIR in Murshidabad, West Bengal, on Monday. PTI

> It is the biggest expression of nationality and patriotism that you are in a participatory process to elect a democratic government
>
> JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI Supreme Court judge

NEARBY

17 investment proposals cleared

BENGALURU
The State High Level Clearances Committee (SHLCC) on Monday cleared 11 new investment proposals and six additional investment proposals, together worth around ₹18,430.44 crore. These proposals are expected to create an additional 15,032 jobs in the State, according to a statement by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. » PAGE 6



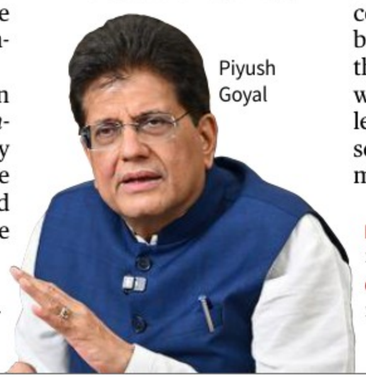
Delimitation will not affect southern States, says Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said the 33% reservation for women in Parliament and the Assemblies would be implemented by 2029.

During a conversation with journalists of *The Hindu,* he described as a "silly concern" the view that the proposed exercise would be disadvantageous to the southern States. "There is a proportional increase across the country. Everybody is back to where they were," he said, accusing Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and others of promoting a false narrative on the issue.

He said the reservation would be implemented by adding seats to the current strength of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and legislatures. "By adding seats, we do not deprive anybody of the number of seats they could contest, and yet we bring in one-third seats that will be reserved for women. The process of selecting the seats to be reserved will be randomised," he said.



Piyush Goyal

INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 11
GREATEST DECISION: PM » PAGE 10

Retail inflation inches up to 3.4% in March

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation inched up to 3.4% in March from 3.21% February, mainly due to an uptick in prices of certain food items, show data released on Monday. The food inflation, based on the consumer price index (CPI), was estimated at 3.87% as against 3.47% in February. This remains below the Reserve Bank of India's median target of 4%.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

IMD's April forecast projects monsoon to be 'below normal' for first time in 11 years

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is staring at a "below-normal" southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned for the first time in 11 years in its April forecast.

Between the monsoon months of June-September, India is likely to receive only 92% of the long period average (LPA) of 87 cm rainfall this year, M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said at a press briefing on Monday.

India last experienced reduced monsoon rainfall in 2023, when the IMD had warned of "near-normal" rainfall at 96% of the LPA. In 2015, the IMD's warning of "below-normal" rain – at 93% of the LPA – turned out to be an underestimate with the actual rainfall recorded at 86%, making it one of India's worst drought years.

The insufficient rain could impact farming which is significantly rainfed. FILE PHOTO

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said the main reason for this year's below-normal monsoon warning was the likely development of an El Nino – the periodic warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific. At present, "weak" La Nina-like conditions – the converse of an El Nino – were transitioning to neutral conditions. The effects of the El Nino were only likely to come into full effect in the second half of the monsoon.

With disruptions of fertilizer supply ahead of the kharif season anticipated in the wake of the West Asia war, insufficient rain could impact farming in the country, which is significantly rainfed.

El Nino, which has emerged in 16 years since 1960, has depressed India's monsoon rainfall nine times.

Mr. Mohapatra said that despite the links between an El Nino and weak monsoon, two factors could blunt its impact. The first is the so called 'positive' IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole), a condition that is likely to develop towards the end of the southwest monsoon season. The second is that the extent of northern hemisphere snow cover from January to March 2026 has been slightly below normal.

The dipole refers to oscillations of sea-surface temperatures between the western (near Africa) and eastern (near Indonesia) tropical Indian Ocean. A "positive" dipole and reduced snow cover generally tend to bring more rain to India and can offset El Nino's "negative" impact, Mr Mohapatra said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Rajat Patidar — the new king of Chinnaswamy

His growth as a leader has made for spectacular viewing and fears that he would be compelled to perform under the towering shadow of Kohli have proved unfounded; he is a captain who believes in leading from the front and espousing the cause of positivity

R. Kaushik

At Bengaluru's M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, the upper tier of the 'B' Stand, located in the South-West corner of the ground, is thrown open to fans during domestic tournaments. A fair smattering of spectators turns up - the numbers are understandably more when Karnataka are in action - to cheer for individuals more than teams, and especially if these said individuals have been/are a part of Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

There was the mandatory 250-odd people in attendance at the Ranji Trophy final between Mumbai, the multiple-times champions, and Madhya Pradesh, seeking their first crown, in June 2022, when the knockouts were played exclusively in the Garden City just as cricket was attempting to embrace a semblance of normalcy in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mumbai went into the contest as favourites, as they generally do, but in the opposition camp was a respected figure from Mumbai cricket who knew what it took to make underdogs punch above their weight.

Chandrakant Pandit was Madhya Pradesh's head coach, an acknowledged hard taskmaster who took no prisoners and who had little compunction in cracking the whip. He had forged a fighting fit unit under Aditya Shrivastava, a right-handed middle-order batter. Not many players from the Madhya Pradesh team, however, were household names. Mumbai boasted Prithvi Shaw, the captain, alongside Sarfaraz Khan, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhawal Kulkarni, all of whom are internationals though Sarfaraz and Jaiswal weren't at the time; Madhya Pradesh didn't have a single international in their ranks. This was classic David versus Goliath, if ever there was one.

Pandit has an interesting connection with the Chinnaswamy. He was the captain when Madhya Pradesh made it to the Ranji final for the first time - Holkar had won the title four times and finished runners-up on six other occasions - in April 1999, against Karnataka. Pandit's team, which included Test spinners Narendra Hirwani and Rajesh Chouhan, called the shots on the first four days. They opened up a 75-run first-innings lead and even though opener J. Arunkumar slammed 147 and Vijay Bharadwaj weighed in with a laborious 75 in the second innings, Karnataka's lead was only 246 when rain halted play prematurely on day four.

Sunil Joshi declared the innings closed before the start of play on the final morning. Madhya Pradesh needed 247 from 90 overs to lift the trophy outright, eminently gettable on a surface still playing true, but for some reason, they chose to batten down the hatches and bat out time. And so, No. 3 Santosh Sahu, who scored a 165-ball 130 in the first innings, faced 80 deliveries for his 19, two-down Devendra Bundela pottered around for 168 balls in making 28 and the captain himself patted back 64 deliveries for his 13.

Pandit and Syed Abbas Ali, the grandson of Syed Mushtaq Ali, held fort at tea with Madhya Pradesh on 130 for four, a couple of hours and potentially 30 overs from creating history. Karnataka, however, weren't giving up. Just before the tea break, Bharadwaj's off-spin accounted for Bundela. After the interval, the all-rounder was unstoppable, taking five of the six wickets to fall including that of Pandit, whose dismissal at 132 triggered the mother of all collapses.

Madhya Pradesh lost their last six wickets for 18 runs - Joshi accounted for Abbas, who made a painstaking 47 from 204 deliveries - as Karnataka rose like the proverbial Phoenix from the ashes to pull off a 96-run heist. One of the indelible memories as Karnataka celebrated with abandon was the sight of Pandit, then 37, weeping uncontrollably just outside the boundary ropes. So near, yet so far for the wicketkeeper-batter playing as a professional. Pandit had been an integral part of five Ranji-winning Mumbai sides, but it's the one that got away from him in Bengaluru that hurt him immensely.

This was Pandit's shot at redemption, even though it might not have been as a player, and that too against the side he had represented with distinction for so long. Batting first by choice, Mumbai posted 374, not massive but intimidating enough, you'd think, for relative 'lightweights'. No one had told Madhya Pradesh that; opener Yash Dubey faced 336 deliveries for 133, No. 3 Shubham Sharma chipped in with 116 and a slightly built right-hander at No. 4 slammed 20 fours on his way to 122.

K. MURALI KUMAR

Exactly a month previously, this batter had captured the imagination of the RCB fans by becoming the first uncapped player to make a century in the playoffs of the IPL. It was on the back of his screaming 112 not out that RCB overcame Lucknow Super Giants by 14 runs in the Eliminator of IPL 2022, a knock that suggested that he was cut out for bigger things.

First coming

As he brought up his hundred at the Chinnaswamy in the Ranji final, the fans at the 'B' stand screamed 'RCB, RCB, RCB'. After acknowledging the cheers of his teammates and coaching staff and basking in the warm embrace of his captain, Rajat Patidar turned towards the cheering fans, raised his bat and kissed the Madhya Pradesh crest on his jersey, letting them know that while he was an RCB fan-favourite, his immediate loyalties lay with his state side. Patidar backed up his first-innings ton with an unbeaten 30 as Madhya Pradesh hunted down a modest target of 108 with six wickets to spare, sending Pandit and an entire state into a paroxysm of delight.

At the time, few would have imagined that that June afternoon nearly four years back was only the start of a relationship that would strengthen over time. RCB had signed up Patidar ahead of IPL 2021, where he only played four matches, but after his century in the Eliminator the following year, he became undroppable. RCB kept the faith even though he missed the entire 2023 season through injury and he justified the expectations with 395 runs at a strike-rate of 177.13 from 15 knocks the following year.

By the time IPL 2024 kicked off, Patidar had made his Test debut, against Ben Stokes' England in Visakhapatnam in February 2024. After beginning brightly with a composed 32, he hit a horror patch with subsequent scores of 9, 5, 0, 17 and 0, playing himself out of contention. He hasn't seriously been in the Test reckoning since, but when RCB were looking to the future and beyond Faf du Plessis as captain ahead of IPL 2025, their search stopped at Patidar.

At the time, Patidar didn't have a great deal of experience of captaincy even at the domestic level, but with Virat Kohli still around and Dinesh Karthik moving over to a backroom role, the belief was that Patidar would grow into his role, that he would grow comfortable in his own skin in time to come. Who would have even thought that his time would come at the first instant of asking?

For 17 years, with Kohli first the support cast to superstars Rahul Dravid and Jacques Kallis and Anil Kumble and then graduating to rub shoulders with and later surpass giants like Chris Gayle, AB de Villiers, Yuvraj Singh and Glenn Maxwell, RCB had tilted at the windmills without success. They had reached three finals in that period but surrendered all three, to Deccan Chargers, Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad; their own neighbouring states became their kryptonite in title tilts. Not even Patidar in his wildest imagination would have thought that in his first season as captain, he would go where so many before him - Dravid, Kevin Pietersen, Kumble, Daniel Vettori, Kohli and du Plessis among them -- couldn't.

Patidar's growth as a leader has made for spectacular viewing. Fears that he would be compelled to perform under the towering shadow of Kohli have proved unfounded, thanks in no measure to one of the greatest batters of his generation. Kohli has been supportive and unstinted in his backing of his skipper, but he has allowed Patidar to be his own man, make his own decisions and mistakes, and learn from them. Patidar has revealed himself as a terrific leader, a captain who believes in leading from the front and espousing the cause of positivity that has also captivated Kohli so much that his strike-rate in the IPL has gone up by nearly 25 runs in the last couple of seasons.

Stepping up

Only two fifties, a highest of 64 and an average of 24 (312 runs from 15 innings) might suggest that Patidar was weighed down by the cares of captaincy in his first season at the helm, but as always, statistics tell only half the tale. His strike-rate of 143.78 wasn't insignificant and he often didn't get too many deliveries to face because of the stirring deeds at the top of the order of Kohli and Phil Salt, and at No. 3 of Devdutt Padikkal before he was ruled out through injury. This season, Patidar the T20 monster has truly stepped up, making a serious charge for the Orange Cap and backing it up with a stunning array of shots that must compel India's selectors to take note even though the next World Cup is nearly two years away, by which time Patidar will be 35. Four innings this season have produced 195 runs - only boy wonder Vaibhav Suryavanshi was ahead of him before Monday's clash between his Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad - at a strike-rate of 214.28. Eleven fours have been overshadowed by 18 sixes from 91 deliveries faced; there is a look in his eyes that suggest that Patidar isn't content to rest on last season's collective laurels, that he is out for an encore.

Just how confident he has become is evidenced by his decision-making, too. On Sunday in Mumbai, Patidar promoted himself to No. 3 when Salt was dismissed in the 11th over after an opening stand of 120 with Kohli. Conventional wisdom would have dictated using Padikkal's left-handedness, but Patidar chose to back his hitting abilities. The result - four fours and five sixes as he brought up his fastest 20-over half-century, in a mere 17 deliveries. Just to put things in perspective, Kohli took more than twice as many balls (37) to get to that same landmark.

Patidar is primarily down-to-earth though like all of RCB's Indian players, he is needlessly guarded and impossibly wary at press conferences. Maybe in due course, he will learn the ropes there too; after all, every available piece of evidence confirms that he is a quick learner, a Pandit pupil in every sense.

THE GIST

- RCB had signed up Patidar ahead of IPL 2021, where he only played four matches, but after his century in the Eliminator the following year, he became undroppable
- Not even Patidar in his wildest imagination would have thought that in his first season as captain, he would go where so many before him – Dravid, Kevin Pietersen, Kumble, Daniel Vettori, Kohli and du Plessis among them – couldn't
- This season, the T20 monster has truly stepped up, making a serious charge for the Orange Cap and backing it up with a stunning array of shots

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

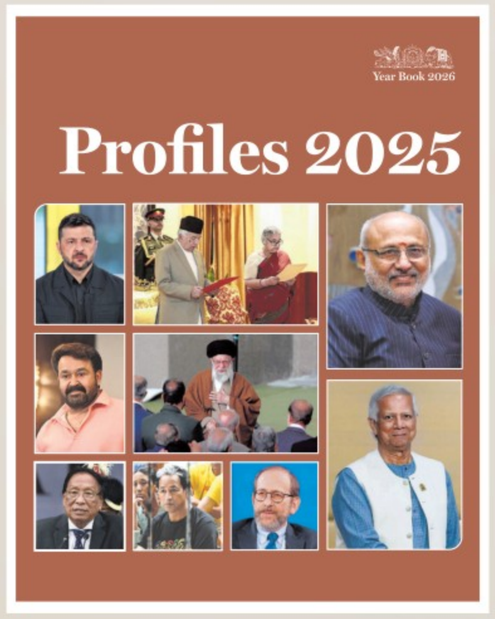
The Hindu Year Book 2026

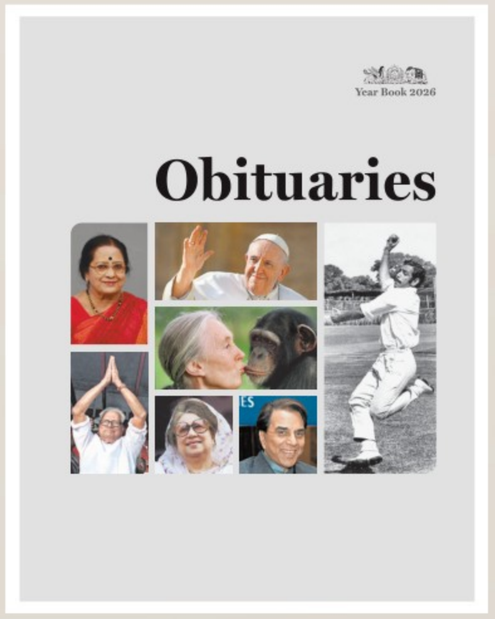
provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**

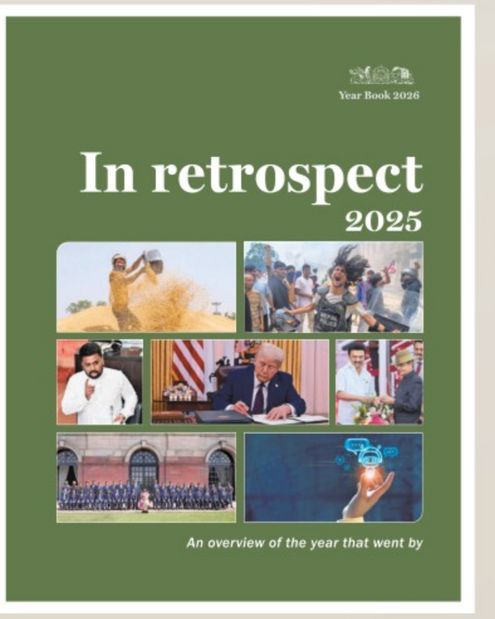
It features a Calendar of Events with Profiles of People, and Data on India and the World. Expert essays cover critical topics such as like AI and the Indus Waters Treaty, while dedicated sections analyse global governance, economy, and sports through evocative photographs and factual reporting.

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER
March 21st to 31st, 2026

~~₹499~~
₹349







DATES 2025 | PERSONALITIES | OBITUARIES
OVERVIEW | DATA 2025 | COMMENTARY | SPECIAL ESSAYS

THG BOOKS

BOOK YOUR COPY

To avail this limited period offer, scan QR code or visit publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/Purchase

For bulk booking and enquiries, contact us at bookstore@thehindu.co.in or 1800 102 1878

*Terms and Conditions apply | Shipping charges applicable

India's No.1 Dealer

VASANTH & CO

Wishing you all a Happy Tamil New Year

CELEBRATING THE 76th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF
Shri H. VASANTHAKUMAR

Founder - Vasanth & Co and Vasanth TV,
Former Member of Parliament,
Orator, Writer, Social Servant.

76th Birth Anniversary

H. VASANTHAKUMAR, M.A.
1950 - 2020

TAMIL NEW YEAR DISCOUNT SALE, EASY EMI

1.5 Ton 5 Star Inverter AC — LG — ₹66 Per Day — upto ₹2000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹1999

AC MELA — EXCHANGE Offer upto ₹7000* (selected model AC)

Just Pay ₹3 and Take Home 3 STAR AC
Just Pay ₹5 and Take Home 5 STAR AC
Balance in Easy EMI
0% Interest | 0% Document Charge

ONIDA 1 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC ₹25990 Only — More Star More Saving 3 Star
FREE Standard Installation (selected brand AC)

VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty AC Get upto 3 Years AMC + WARRANTY*

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC — DAIKIN — ₹77 Per Day — EMI ₹2305

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — BLUE STAR — ₹80 Per Day — upto ₹2000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹2400

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC — Haier — ₹67 Per Day — upto ₹1000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹1994

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — VOLTAS — ₹99 Per Day — upto ₹1000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹2983

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — LLOYD — ₹67 Per Day — upto ₹1500 CASHBACK — EMI ₹2025

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — Panasonic — ₹67 Per Day — upto ₹3000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹1999

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — Carrier — ₹100 Per Day — EMI ₹2999

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC — HITACHI — ₹112 Per Day — upto ₹1500 CASHBACK — EMI ₹3374

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC — GENERAL — ₹139 Per Day — EMI ₹4174

1.5 Ton 5 Star Inverter AC — SAMSUNG — ₹67 Per Day — upto ₹2100 CASHBACK — EMI ₹1990

1.6 Ton 3 Star Split AC — MITSUBISHI — ₹167 Per Day — EMI ₹4999

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — ONIDA — ₹81 Per Day — upto ₹1500 CASHBACK — EMI ₹2416

1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC — Godrej — ₹85 Per Day — upto ₹1000 CASHBACK — EMI ₹2525

Upto ₹15000 + 1 EMI CASH BACK* (select product)

Upto ₹31000 CASH BACK* (For AC / LED TV / Refrigerator / Air Cooler)

Upto ₹30000 CASH BACK* (For AC / Refrigerator LED TV / Dishwasher) Mobile & Laptop

Upto ₹11000 CASH BACK* (For AC / Refrigerator)

Debit / Credit Cards % NO COST EMI + upto ₹26000 Instant Discount*

VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty Get upto 5 Year Warranty* Home & Kitchen Appliances Mobile & Laptop

Tamil New Year Special Offer Refrigerator

EMI ₹2625 — 587 Ltr Side by Side Refrigerator — Price ~~₹104990~~ — Upto ₹8000 CASHBACK

EMI ₹1999 — 216 Ltr Frost Free Refrigerator — Price ~~₹28990~~ — Vasanth Price ₹21990 Onwards

EMI ₹900 — Direct Cool Refrigerator — Price ~~₹24090~~ — Vasanth Price ₹11990 Onwards

Deep Freezer — 505 Ltr Double Door — EMI ₹2749

Visi Cooler — 305 Ltr Single Door — EMI ₹2891

Dishwasher — EMI ₹1999

All Brand Air Cooler & Fan At Lowest Price

Easy EMI

BAJAJ | Sunflame | USHA | Crompton | HAVELLS | KENSTAR | orient | atomberg

Tamil New Year Special Offer - Home Entertainment & Appliances

65" 4K Ultra HD LED Smart Google TV — EMI ₹2611

(165.1 cm) — Price ~~₹113390~~ — Vasanth Price ₹46990

55" 4K UHD Google TV — EMI ₹2707

(139.7 cm) — Price ~~₹78990~~ — Vasanth Price ₹33990

40" Full HD Smart TV

(101.6 cm) — Price ~~₹24990~~ — Vasanth Price ₹17490

SONY BRAVIA — CINEMA IS COMING HOME — Happy Tamil New Year

BRAVIA 7 | BRAVIA 9 | BRAVIA 8II

SONY PICTURES CORE | NETFLIX | prime video | Dolby VISION-ATMOS | IMAX ENHANCED | Advanced AI | Powered by XR

SPECIAL FESTIVE OFFERS! INSTANT CASHBACK upto Rs. 25,000/- | UP TO 30% OFF | TV + SOUNDBAR COMBO OFFER SAVE UPTO Rs. 57,990/- BUY NOW AT Rs. 2,995/-

12 Kg Front Loading Washing Machine — EMI ₹1990

Upto ₹7000 CASH BACK — Price ~~₹53990~~ — Vasanth Price ₹42990

7 Kg Top Loading Washing Machine — EMI ₹1166

Price ~~₹21490~~ — Vasanth Price ₹12990 முதல்

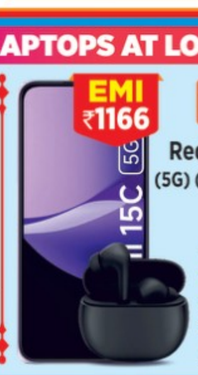
MOBILE & LAPTOPS AT LOWEST PRICE, EASY EMI

iPhone 17 — Price ₹82900 — upto ₹3000 CASHBACK ICICI Bank AXIS BANK

Available Now — vivo V70 FE — Just Pay ₹99 Smart Watch

Pre Book Now — oppo F33 Series FREE! Smart Watch + Air Pods

EMI ₹1166 — Redmi 15C (5G) (6 + 128 GB) — Just Pay ₹499 and get Buds 4 Active



EMI ₹2250 — SAMSUNG Galaxy A57 FREE! 25W Adapter

EMI ₹5833 — SAMSUNG Galaxy S26 Ultra (12+256 GB) — Price ₹139999 — upto ₹9000 CASHBACK ICICI Bank AXIS BANK

EMI ₹4200 — FREE FREE — Intel® Core™ 5-120U / 16 GB RAM / 512GB SSD / Win 11 MSO 21 / FHD / 15.6" / Intel UHD — Price ₹66999

Furniture At Lowest Price, Easy EMI

Buy 5 Seater Sofa and get FREE Crompton Ceiling Fan (worth ₹2599)

Buy Cot above ₹25000 and get FREE Bullet Mixie

(worth ₹3330)

EMI ₹3333

Wooden Cot + 2D Wardrobe + Dressing Table + Side Table + Mattress + 2 Pillow
Vasanth Price ₹39990

Preethi 3 Jar Mixie + Iron Box

Price ~~₹5394~~ — Vasanth Price ₹2999

Butterfly 2 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove + 3 Ltr Pressure Cooker

Price ~~₹8039~~ — Vasanth Price ₹3999

Vidiem Wet Grinder + Electric Kettle

Price ~~₹9949~~ — Vasanth Price ₹4999

Thangam 2 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove + Nutri Bullet + Tower Fan

Price ~~₹12775~~ — Vasanth Price ₹5999

*Conditions apply, Offers till stocks last, Images shown are indicative only.

SONY | LG | SAMSUNG | Panasonic | Haier | Whirlpool | Godrej | DAIKIN | BLUE STAR | IFB | Carrier | GENERAL | VOLTAS | HITACHI | LLOYD | LIEBHERR | Preethi | BOSCH | PHILIPS | TOSHIBA | Electrolux | TCL | BAJAJ | Butterfly | Crompton | Vidiem | USHA | ONIDA | FABER | SOWBAGHYA | ULTRA | HAVELLS | PREMIER | Bajaj FORBES | KAFF | KENT | Premier | Prestige | VENUS | THANGAM | dyson | iPhone | vivo | oppo | motorola | lenovo | DELL | hp | acer | boAt | FIRE-BOLTT | noise

Quality Trust SINCE 1978

93335 93335

EXCHANGE OFFER AVAILABLE
For Exchange your Products. Call - 9042899712

www.vasanthandco.in

Scan QR Code to know more offer.

Physics has not figured out why matter comes in 'flavours'

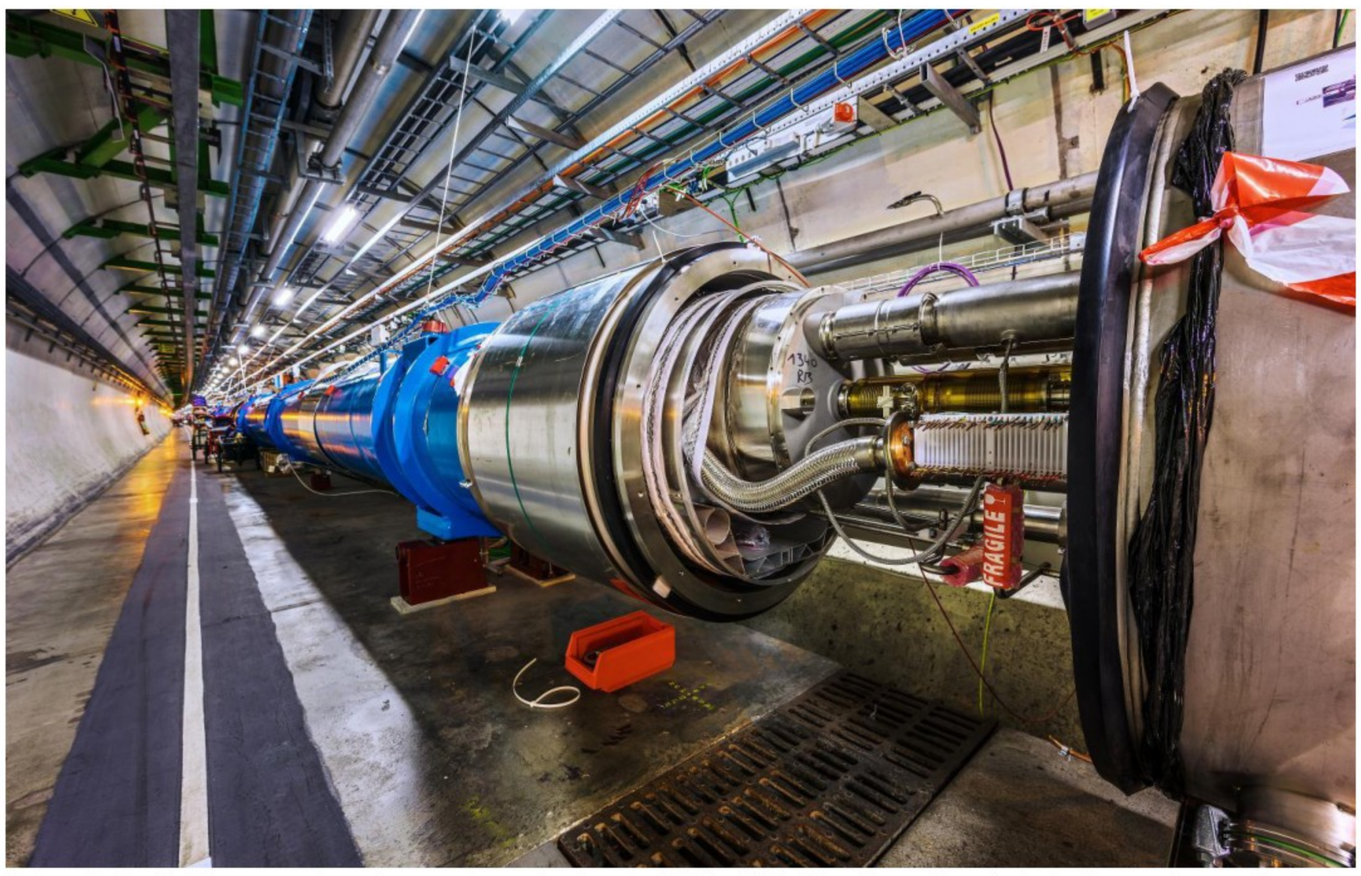
Addressing the flavour puzzle will not just tidy up loose ends in the theory of forces and particles, it would reveal something profound about how nature organises its complexity at a fundamental level; the solution can involve new forces of nature, extra spatial dimensions or extra universes

Nirmal Raj

At the smallest scales, nature often repeats itself. It makes families of subatomic particles that look identical in almost every way. Yet when scientists measured them, they found these 'copies' didn't line up neatly. Some are far heavier than others for no clear reason. Some change into one another at oddly chosen rates. While physicists can describe these patterns with impressive precision, they don't know why the pattern exists at all.

These effects occur at a deeper level in particle physics, going by the name 'flavour puzzle'. It consists of several questions. Consider the electron: it was discovered in 1897 and found not to be unique in 1936, when scientists found the muon. Oddly, the muon has the same properties as the electron but is 200 times heavier, prompting the physicist Isidor Rabi to ask: "Who ordered that?" The meaning of this question was that the theory of electrons told us how it behaves and interacts with other particles, but it didn't predict there would be another copy of it.

To make matters more confusing, scientists discovered the tauon in 1975, weighing 17 times the muon.



The Large Hadron Collider can zoom in on phenomena happening at a scale of 10^{-18} m. But to fathom flavour, theoretical estimates suggest we need to plumb at least 10^{-21} m, which would require much more powerful particle accelerators. CERN

Why in threes?

Over the years, scientists have found other elementary particles occurring in similar triplicates. Each copy, like the electron, muon or tauon, is called a generation. Neutrinos also come in three generations. Protons and neutrons are built from quarks called up and down, and each of these quarks comes in three generations (up, charm, top; down, strange, bottom).

The Standard Model, which is the reigning theory of particle physics, says precisely how all these particles communicate to make the universe. But it is silent on why they come in threes. Why not one or two, or 17?

Over decades, physicists have learnt that while this question is deceptively easy to pose, it is notoriously difficult to answer.

Masses and mixing

The arrangement of masses has been inexplicable as well. The electron and the top quark respectively weigh about 1/1,800-times and 180-times the proton, with the masses of other charged particles taking values between these extremes in no clear scheme. The Koide formula relates the masses of the electron, muon, and tauon in a mathematical guess but lacks a solid fundamental explanation.

Neutrinos are another puzzle: the Standard Model says they should have no mass, yet they do – and even then each neutrino weighs at least a million times less than an electron.

Further yet, an effect called quantum mixing plus a fundamental force called the weak force allow particles of different generations to morph into one another. But even then, the rates at which quarks mix (meaning how much they masquerade as other particles) look nothing like those at which neutrinos mix.

The weak force is also involved in an effect called CP violation, which scientists believe is responsible for our universe containing almost no antimatter. However, the magnitude of CP violation the Standard Model makes room for is insufficient to explain the dominance of matter over antimatter observed in the cosmos. Another force called the strong nuclear force predicts a large degree of CP violation, but scientists have found no signs of it. This is called the strong CP problem.

The flavour puzzle

Why are there three generations? Why do the masses span so vast a range? What is behind the peculiar patterns of the masses? What explains the different mixing? Where is the amount of CP violation required to explain the matter-antimatter asymmetry?

All of these mysteries together constitute the flavour puzzle. The name comes from the fact that physicists use the word 'flavour' as a label for different types of otherwise similar particles – a name the physicists Murray Gell-Mann and Harald Fritzsch coined at a Baskin-Robbins store. The electron, muon, and tauon are the same kind of particle (leptons) but come in three flavours. The same is true for the quarks. Each flavour has a different mass and can mix.

One way to think about it is to ask what would happen if flavour didn't exist and we had just one generation of matter particles. The fundamental forces will still operate and we will still have atoms, chemistry, and life. Only, physics would lack some of its richness, such as the phenomena induced by CP violation, rare processes, and the conversion of flavours between neutrinos. The thing is these processes are not essential for atoms, chemistry or life. It's as if nature has them for decoration, with no tangible purpose.

The electron, muon, and tauon are the same kind of particle (leptons) but come in three flavours. The same is true for the quarks. Each flavour has a different mass and can mix

Free parameters

The Standard Model is the most successful theory of science to date. It owes this compliment to the fact that it is internally self-consistent and that countless lab experiments have successfully tested its predictions.

The problem is that while the Standard Model says how particles behave, it doesn't predict the numerical values of many of the particles' properties. For example, it doesn't say that an electron at rest has an energy of 511 keV. Instead scientists have measured these values in experiments and then plugged them into the theory. These numbers are called free parameters.

The Standard Model has 19 free parameters – and 14 of them arise due to flavour, making it seem as if the Model is swaddled in its mysteries.

How do we crack the flavour puzzle? Scientists figured out that they could explain atoms of the same element behaving differently in nuclear reactions by zooming in, revealing that some of the nuclei had more or fewer neutrons (these nuclei are called isotopes). The Large Hadron Collider in Europe can zoom in on phenomena happening at a scale of 10^{-18} m. But to fathom flavour, theoretical estimates suggest we need to plumb at least 10^{-21} m, which would require much more powerful particle accelerators.

New forces of nature

Ultimately, the solution to the flavour puzzle could involve new forces of nature, grand unified theories of fundamental forces, extra spatial dimensions or even extra universes. Or perhaps it could be that there is no puzzle at all. Scientists have yet to unearth a logic that explains flavours in the subatomic world – yet there is also no reason for them to not be what they are. We don't have enough information right now to know which way the sword really cuts. Perhaps flavours are an environmental accident, perhaps they vary in other universes, perhaps we're overthinking all of this.

That said, one thing is for sure: addressing the flavour puzzle wouldn't merely tidy up loose ends in an otherwise successful theory of forces and particles. It would reveal something profound about how nature organises its complexity at a fundamental level. The rhyme of flavours is not noise but a code. We've learnt how to read it but we haven't yet deciphered what it's trying to tell us.

(Nirmal Raj is an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the Centre for High Energy Physics at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. nraj@iisc.ac.in)

In this image from a video provided by NASA, the Artemis II Orion capsule splashes down in the Pacific Ocean on April 10, 2026. NASA/AP

Artemis II draws flood of conspiracy theories

Agence France-Presse

From false claims that a historic lunar fly-by was staged in a movie studio to unfounded narratives that footage of the crew was AI-generated, the Artemis II mission has been clouded by a blizzard of misinformation.

The falsehoods – circulating across tech platforms including X, TikTok, and Facebook – have also added fresh fuel to a longstanding conspiracy theory that the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing was faked. Hashtags such as "fake space" and "fake NASA" have gained traction online since NASA's lunar fly-by sent astronauts farther from Earth than any human before.

Among the falsehoods was an image, viewed over a million times on X, purporting to show the Artemis II crew floating before a green screen and facing film cameras – suggesting their mission was staged in a studio, but in reality bore the hallmarks of AI manipulation.

Some users also shared a video showing text appearing through the mission's official mascot as purported proof the flight was staged.

Conspiracy theories have now moved into the mainstream and scientific achievements such as the lunar mission are "easy content for conspiracy influencers"

But a digital forensics expert said the anomaly was the result of a failed text overlay by a news station that had syndicated the official feed.

Unfounded claims that the Artemis II mission detected a mysterious moving object on the moon's surface also racked up millions of views across platforms.

The misinformation spread as four astronauts captivated the world with stunning visuals from their fly-by of the Earth's natural satellite from aboard the Orion spacecraft.

Once confined to the internet's fringes, conspiracy theories have moved squarely into the mainstream amid growing mistrust of public institutions and traditional media.

Scientific achievements such as the lunar mission present "very easy content for conspiracy influencers," said disinformation researcher Mike Rothschild. "There are some people whose reflexive reaction to any kind of major event is to claim it's fake and staged," Rothschild said. Many of them "pass themselves off as experts in science and physics because it's somehow more believable to their followers than just going with 'the official story.'"

Several tech platforms have gutted trust and safety teams and scaled back moderation, making them what researchers call a hotbed for misinformation.

Further sowing online confusion were claims that the entire Artemis II mission was a hoax powered by artificial intelligence tools.

The assertion underscores how the rise of widely available AI tools has given misinformation peddlers a handy incentive to cast doubt on authentic content – a tactic researchers have dubbed as the "liar's dividend."

The swirl of falsehoods has also bolstered one of the longest enduring conspiracy theories – that NASA faked the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, broadcasting visuals shot in a Hollywood studio.

The conspiratorial discourse has seeped into pop culture, becoming a plotline in movies like romantic comedy "Fly Me to the Moon" – with Scarlett Johansson's character tasked with faking a moon landing – and some celebrities also amplifying the claim.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Stars, the zodiac, and new years

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The _____ _____ is the moment when the earth's axis is perpendicular to the sun and it falls these days around March 21. In the tropical zodiac system, this date is defined as the start of the sun's time in Aries in the zodiac. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Following on from Q1: the Indian system differs from the tropical zodiac because it uses the _____ zodiac. In this system, observers check where the sun actually is relative to the physical stars in the background. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

In many Indian cultures, the sun entering the Aries constellation marks the new year, around April 14. Around 2,000 years ago, the tropical and the [answer to Q2] systems fell roughly on the same date, around March 21. By how much, in degrees, do the two systems differ today?

QUESTION 4

The zodiac is essentially a coordinate system that pre-modern observers of the sky used to specify the position of the X, which is the apparent path the sun takes through the sky. Name X, which observers used long ago to also calculate the earth's tilt.

QUESTION 5

Because the earth wobbles on its axis, the stars (as we see them) seem to move slowly eastward by around 1° every 72 years, completing a full cycle every 26,000 years. Thus, the sun doesn't return to the same point in the sky on March 21 every year. What is this phenomenon called?

VISUAL: In pre-modern times, astronomy almost always overlapped with astrology. Name this Italian philosopher who convinced Johannes Kepler that astrology lacked a physical basis, prompting the latter to attempt to reform astrology. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to April 9 quiz:

1. Compound extracted from the foxglove plant – **Ans: Digoxin**
2. Plant-derived substance used in blowgun darts – **Ans: Curare**
3. Neurotoxin produced by Clostridium bacteria – **Ans: Botox**
4. Drug derived from bark used by ancient Egyptians, Greeks – **Ans: Aspirin**
5. Metalloid once a favoured tool of murderers – **Ans: Arsenic trioxide**

Visual: Sweet clover

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Avijit Mohanta | Anmol Agrawal | Bushra Ansari | Prem Raj P.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Commuters worried about bulge on dividers near ORR's metro pillars

Motorists say these sudden constrictions reduce manoeuvring space and increase the risk of collisions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Commuters on Outer Ring Road have raised concerns over uneven concrete dividers near metro pillars, which are narrowing the road and creating safety risks. Two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable in heavy traffic.

At several stretches along the ORR where metro construction is under way, the central divider appears to bulge outward around pillar bases, narrowing the usable carriageway. Motorists say these sudden constrictions reduce manoeuvring space and increase the risk of collisions, especially during peak hours when traffic congestion is high.

Two-wheeler riders, who often weave through slow-moving vehicles, are among the most vulnerable. "The road suddenly narrows near the pillars, and if you are not careful, you can easily hit the divider or another vehicle," said Prasanth K., a commuter who regularly travels along the stretch.

The lack of clear markings and reflectors makes these spots more dangerous at night. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

> Every day while riding through ORR, these sudden bulges near metro pillars catch us off guard. In peak traffic, there is hardly any space to react
>
> **PRASANTH K.**
> Commuter

The lack of clear markings and reflectors makes these spots even more dangerous at night, according to commuters. "Every day while riding through ORR, these sudden bulges near metro pillars catch us off guard. In peak traffic, there is hardly any space to react. It feels risky, especially for bikers," added Mr. Prasanth.

"As a daily commuter travelling by bike on the stretch between Silk Board and Bellandur, I feel these designs are not practical for Bengaluru traffic. With so many vehicles on the road, even a small narrowing can create a dangerous situation. Last week, I almost hit one such bulge, but fortunately, nothing happened," said Manish M., a resident of Koramangala.

Discussion online

The issue has also triggered discussion on social media, with users questioning whether basic road safety checks were overlooked during execution. Many have called for a more uniform and safer design, arguing that such inconsistencies could have been avoided with better planning.

However, officials on the construction site said that the variation in divider alignment is due to structural requirements. "The alignment near metro pillars is influenced by the design of the pier foundations, which are constructed as per engineering safety norms. These are temporary traffic arrangements during ongoing work," an official said.

They added that final road restoration, including uniform dividers and improved lane alignment, will be taken up once construction is completed. However, BMRCL senior officials from the engineering department were not available for comment on the issue.

The BMRCL is constructing the Blue Line of Namma Metro, also known as the ORR-Airport corridor. The project is divided into two phases: Phase 2A, from Central Silk Board to Krishnarajapura (K.R. Puram), and Phase 2B, from K.R. Puram to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

IPL night matches: Metro services to be extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced the extension of metro services on select days in April to accommodate the surge in commuters during IPL matches here.

According to a release, the metro services will be extended on April 15 and 24, when night matches are scheduled. Last train services from all terminal stations will operate beyond the usual hours, running up to 2 a.m. in the early hours of the following day. Trains from Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Bommasandra will depart at 12.30 a.m., while services from Challaghatta and Madavara will leave at 12.45 a.m. The last train from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic) towards all directions will depart at 1.30 a.m., with the final service from R.V. Road scheduled at 2 a.m.

Metro services will not be extended on April 18, when both day and night matches are scheduled.

To ease travel, QR codes for two-way journeys have been integrated into digital IPL match tickets.

IPL ticket scam: Security guard loses ₹52,500

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman security guard has allegedly been cheated of ₹52,500 in a fake IPL ticket scam. A complaint was lodged with the Central Division Cybercrime police on April 10.

The complainant, Sunita Tandava Murthy, is a security guard at a private agency. She was assigned duty at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 28, during an IPL match.

She asked a bouncer, also deployed at the stadium, about tickets. He shared a mobile number and asked her to contact it. She reached out via WhatsApp. The accused, who spoke in Hindi, offered tickets for matches. She first transferred ₹3,000 for two tickets through an online payment platform. The accused then sent QR codes bearing her name, making the transaction appear genuine.

Between March 30 and April 4, she transferred amounts totalling ₹52,500. However, no valid IPL tickets were delivered, and the accused became unresponsive. Realising she had been cheated, Sunita lodged a complaint. An investigation to trace the accused is under way.

Mass eviction of migrant workers after assault on domestic help raises concern

Migrant labourers vacating their makeshift houses at labour colony in Varthur.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A week after the brutal assault on a 20-year-old domestic help in Varthur, hundreds of migrant labourers residing in a labour colony along Balagere Road have allegedly been forced to vacate their homes, triggering concerns over displacement and alleged rights violations.

The incident follows the arrest of five men accused of attacking the woman on April 3. The victim had earlier allegedly warned the accused to stop stalking and harassing her. However, on the night of April 3, a group allegedly entered her house, assaulted her with sticks and clubs, and issued death threats, forcing her to reconsider staying in the city.

Police registered an FIR on April 5 against four accused, who have been as identified as Jamshid, Tookhon, Bapoon, and Noor, along with several others.

In the aftermath, the police reportedly summoned landowners in the area for inquiry. Subsequently, landowners asked tenants to vacate, affecting nearly 5,000 migrant families, most of whom hail from West Bengal. Many residents had temporarily returned to their native places to participate in elections, while others have already vacated, left without shelter or resources.

The displaced workers were engaged in various informal jobs, including domestic work, housekeeping, garbage segregation, construction, security services, and gig work. Several families were seen packing their belongings and leaving, with no alternative arrangements for housing, food, or income.

Landowners, however, denied any police pressure behind the eviction.

"We asked tenants to vacate due to internal family disputes over the property, not because of the police," said Venugopal, one of the landlords.

Migrant workers, on the other hand, alleged that the eviction followed the police crackdown after the assault case and that the majority of residents had no connection to the crime. Shaheen Sheikh, who runs a house-cleaning service, said he had invested nearly ₹10 lakh in constructing sheet houses on rented land. "Everything is gone now. I have no place to stay," he said.

Sources said that some landowners plan to demolish the settlements and convert the land into grazing areas and cattle sheds.

Meanwhile, the assault victim, who had been under the care of local residents, has reportedly returned to her native place fearing further backlash. "I blame myself for the trouble. I am helpless now," she said.

Social activist R. Kameelmullah, who works with migrant labourers, said he had brought the issue to the notice of senior officials but received no response. "Police are calling it a civil matter. This is a gross violation of fundamental rights, and no one seems concerned," he alleged.

A senior police official said that the police had nothing to do with this as there is no law and order and criminal cases involved.

The incident is also expected to impact nearby residential areas, which rely heavily on migrant workers for domestic help and other services.

State issues 'nutrition advisory' for official events, bans fried snacks, milk tea and coffee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government issued a nutrition advisory on Monday that details what should be served on plates at official events, while also asking departments to avoid several items, ranging from fried snacks to milk tea and coffee.

The advisory said the move is aimed at fostering proper diet and nutrition practices in the workplace, noting that food currently served in government settings "is not necessarily healthy and does not promote healthy diet and nutrition".

The advisory draws on the World Health Organisation's definition of health as encompassing physical, mental, and social well-being and emphasises nutrition as a key component of preventive healthcare.

The food served in government settings 'is not necessarily healthy', it says. GETTY IMAGES

For in-house office meetings and breaks, the advisory recommends millet-based snacks and food that is low in fat, oil, sugar, high in fibre, and free from additives like monosodium glutamate (MSG). It calls for serving fresh cut fruits, vegetable salads and sprouts, along with roasted and unsalted nuts. Seeds including pumpkin, flax, and sunflower have also been suggested.

For larger government functions, the advisory prescribes low sugar, low fat and low oil cooked or baked food

Beverages, the advisory said, should be low in fat and sugar, with options such as green tea and low-fat buttermilk, while drinking water should be boiled and served in glass bottles and steel flasks.

Low sugar, low fat

For larger government functions, the advisory prescribes low sugar, low fat and low oil cooked or baked food. It mandates the inclusion of millet-based items, at least one during snacks and a minimum of two during meals.

It also recommends using brown rice instead of white rice. Where non-vegetarian food is served, it advises restricting it to well-cooked lean meat or white meat.

The advisory suggests the same to eateries within government office campuses. It advises departments to refrain from serving certain items including microwave heated or cooked food, industrially processed food, high fat, oily or heavily spiced food, fried snacks, carbonated drinks, high-sugar fruit juices, alcohol-based beverages, milk coffee or tea and water in plastic bottles.

The advisory stresses maintaining hygiene and cleanliness while serving and preparing food and water. It also encouraged departments to source food and beverages from local cottage industries, self-help groups (SHGs), prison kitchens, and nutri-gardens.

2 probationary RTO inspectors held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two probationary Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVIs) and a lorry driver were arrested in a bribery case here, the Lokayukta Police said.

The accused have been identified as Kiran S.P., 37, and Dinesh Kumar D.K., 48, both posted at the Nelamangala Regional Transport Office (RTO), along with Ramesh, 40, a lorry driver from Nelamangala taluk.

The complainant, Prashant Dattatray Jadhav, 34, is a resident of Kharghar in Maharashtra. He approached authorities alleging that the officials had demanded a bribe to allow his vehicle to pass through the NICE Road toll plaza.

Investigators said the accused had allegedly demanded ₹30,000 to let the vehicle pass. The two officials had allegedly taken ₹2,000 via UPI and ₹1,000 in cash before the Lokayukta police caught the third accused red-handed while taking an additional ₹300 as part of the bribe amount.

The complainant alleged he was expected to pay the remainder after his vehicle was cleared to pass.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
महा मेट्रो
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspeth, Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrcl.tenders@gmail.com
Tender Notice No. N2-079/AFC-04/2026 Dt.13.04.2026
Name of work : Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Open Loop EMV NCMC card and QR code based Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) system along with CAMC for Nagpur Metro Rail Project Phase-II.
Cost of Documents : INR 88,500/- (inclusive of GST).
Interested Bidders may visit **www.metrorailnagpur.com** or CPP Website : **https://eprocure.gov.in** for NIT. Bid documents can be downloaded from **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from **16.00** Hrs of **13.04.2026.**
Executive Director/ Procurement, Maha-Metro
Nagpur Metro : City's Transport Solution

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage increase in SEZ exports from Indore amid turmoil

10.5% increase in exports from Indore's Special Economic Zone (SEZ) amid the turmoil caused by U.S. tariff policies and the West Asia conflict. The exports reached ₹14,302 crore in the financial year 2025-26. Due to previous orders, the conflict did not have a significant impact, an official said. PTI

India's retail inflation marginally inches up in March

3.4% Retail inflation inched up marginally to 3.4% in March as against 3.21% in February. Based on the consumer price index (CPI) data, the rate of price rise in the food basket was 3.87% in March, up from 3.47% in the preceding month. CPI inflation for rural and urban stood at 3.63% and 3.11%, respectively. PTI

Germany announces fuel price package to tackle energy shock

1.6 in billion euro. Germany unveiled 1.6 billion euros in fuel price relief for businesses and households struggling with the energy shock caused by the war in West Asia. The announcement came after oil prices surged again after the collapse of U.S.-Iran peace talks and Donald Trump's decision to blockade the Strait of Hormuz. AFP

Number of persons executed by Iranian authorities in 2025

1,639 Iranian authorities executed 1,639 people in 2025 and now risks hanging more in the wake of the war against the U.S. and Israel, according to NGOs. The numbers mark an increase of 68% on the 975 people put to death in 2024, including 48 women. AFP

Number of persons killed in Nigeria after misfire by air force

100 A Nigerian Air Force strike targeting jihadi rebels hit a local market in northeastern Nigeria, killing over 100 civilians including children. Officials confirmed a misfire without providing details. Amnesty International said that at least 100 people were killed in the airstrike on Saturday on a village in Yobe. PTI

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Rise in middle class vulnerability

India is lifting its people out of income-based poverty but not moving them ahead for better upward mobility and economic opportunity. A World Bank policy paper proposes shifting welfare analysis from merely counting those below the poverty line to measuring how far people are from a reasonable standard of living.

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Ankur Singh

Walk the line: Surveys suggest that real wages for salaried workers have remained stagnant in recent years, even as overall productivity has improved. REUTERS

THE GIST

- India is among the fastest growing major economies in the world. Yet concerns about inequality, wage stagnation and employment generation have intensified rather than receded.
- Fewer than 10% of workers hold formal jobs with social security protections. The rest operate in an informal economy where growth is limited and earnings remain uncertain. Data shows 94% of informal workers earn less than ₹10,000 per month.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the manufacturing sector shed close to 24 million jobs even as the economy grew. At the same time, gains at the top have accelerated. Estimates suggest that 271 billionaires hold wealth equivalent to roughly one quarter of the country's net national income.

Amid rising geoeconomic uncertainty that risks deepening domestic inequality in emerging market economies, India's macroeconomic performance is still widely seen as a story of progress, with its recent growth model often held up as a success in reducing poverty, and by conventional measures, that claim does hold with its caveats.

The share of Indians living below the World Bank's lower middle income poverty line has fallen sharply from over 50% a decade ago to roughly 30% in recent estimates. Welfare programs through improved last-mile distributive connectivity now reach hundreds of millions through subsidised food, direct transfers and financial inclusion. Hence, extreme deprivation may have declined amongst vulnerable groups.

Yet this narrative rests on a narrow question. Poverty lines tell us whether people have crossed a threshold of subsistence.

They do not tell us what lies above that threshold, or whether it offers a meaningful pathway forward.

Well-being as a spectrum

That limitation has long been recognised. What is more recent is the attempt to move beyond it.

A World Bank policy paper proposes a different way of thinking about welfare, one that does not simply count how many people fall below a line but asks how far people are from a reasonable standard of living. Instead of a binary classification, it treats well-being as a spectrum and gives greater weight to those furthest behind.

This is not just a statistical refinement. It challenges how economic progress is interpreted and how policy success is assessed. It suggests that falling poverty may be masking a deeper failure, the inability of growth to translate into sustained economic movement across large sections of the population.

Seen through this lens, India's growth story appears less reassuring.

The country has been among the fastest growing major economies in the world. Yet concerns about inequality, wage stagnation and employment generation have intensified rather than receded. The issue is not that growth has failed. It is that growth has not translated into mobility.

Crossing a poverty line, in this context, does not necessarily mark entry into stability. It often marks entry into a zone of vulnerability, where incomes remain low, volatile and insufficient to support sustained improvement in living standards. What is expanding is not a secure middle class, but a vulnerable middle.

This pattern reflects deeper structural constraints. Growth in India has increasingly been driven by sectors that are either capital intensive or limited in their ability to absorb labour at scale. Output expands, but the transmission mechanism into stable employment remains weak.

That disconnect is visible in the labour market. Fewer than 10% of Indian workers hold formal jobs with social security protections. The rest operate in an informal economy where productivity growth is limited and earnings remain uncertain.

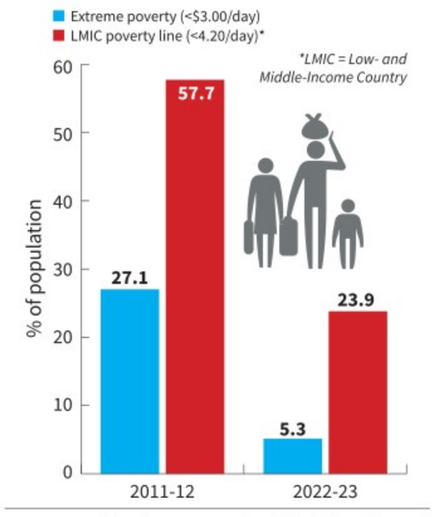
Government data from the e-Shram portal shows that 94.11% of registered informal workers earn less than ₹10,000 a month. At such income levels, the ability to convert earnings into durable improvements in well-being remains constrained. Access to better education, healthcare and financial security depends not only on income, but on its reliability and scale. Volatility itself becomes a barrier to mobility.

This is where the structure of growth begins to matter more than its pace. Even in sectors where output has expanded, employment has not kept up.

Data from labour and industry surveys suggest that real wages for salaried workers have remained largely stagnant in recent years, even as overall productivity has improved. The link between growth and income is not just weak, it is increasingly fractured.

This disconnect is not just a short-term fluctuation in demand but points to deeper structural fault lines in the economy. It is here that the limits of growth become clearer, as the movement of workers into more productive sectors has stalled rather than accelerated.

From here, the problem reveals itself as structural. Economic transformation depends on the continuous movement of workers into higher productivity activities.



In India, that movement has slowed and, in some respects, reversed.

Manufacturing has not expanded at the pace required to absorb the roughly twelve million people entering the labour force each year. Between 2016 and 2021, the sector shed roughly 24 million jobs even as the economy continued to grow. Many workers have instead moved back into agriculture, which still employs nearly 46% of the workforce while producing only about 18% of national output. The income implications are stark. The average farm household earns about ₹10,218 per month across all members, translating to roughly ₹75 per person per day. For a large share of the workforce, the distance from subsistence may have narrowed, but the distance from economic security remains substantial.

At the same time, gains at the top have accelerated. Recent estimates suggest that 271 billionaires now hold wealth equivalent to roughly one quarter of India's net national income. The top 1% alone captures more than 22% of national income.

These trends are not contradictory. They reflect the limits of how progress is measured. Indicators that track poverty reduction capture the elimination of extreme deprivation. They do not capture whether the economy is generating broad-based opportunity or concentrating gains across regions, sectors and income groups.

In that sense, the problem is not only economic. It is also statistical. When metrics focus on thresholds, they can obscure the conditions just above them, signalling success even as mobility stalls.

Falling poverty, fragile households

The consequences are visible across the economy. Youth unemployment stands at around 45%, while the unemployment rate among graduates is close to 29%. For many households, education no longer reliably translates into upward movement.

Household balance sheets reflect similar pressures. Net household financial savings have fallen to roughly 5% of GDP, while household debt has risen sharply, much of it in unsecured borrowing. Increasingly, credit is being used not to finance aspiration, but to smooth volatility and sustain basic consumption. In effect, subsistence itself is becoming financialised.

Even human development indicators point in the same direction. India's child wasting rate remains the highest in the world at 18.7%, and about 35.5% of children under five are stunted. These are not only indicators of deprivation. They are indicators of constrained future mobility.

Shifting challenge

Taken together, these patterns suggest that the central economic challenge is shifting. It is no longer only about reducing poverty. It is about preventing those who move above it from being trapped just beyond it.

This is precisely where the new measurement approach becomes useful. By focusing on the distance from a reasonable standard of living rather than a fixed threshold, it captures whether growth is enabling people to move forward or simply preventing them from falling back.

For India, that distinction is becoming critical. An economy can reduce poverty rates while leaving large segments of its population clustered just above them. It can generate growth without generating mobility. What it produces, instead, is a vulnerable middle with limited pathways upward.

The policy challenge, therefore, is not only to sustain growth, but to restore the link between growth and mobility. That requires expanding productive employment, strengthening the connection between productivity and wages and ensuring that gains are not confined to a narrow segment of the economy.

India's development story is entering a more demanding phase. The question is no longer how many people can be lifted out of poverty. It is whether growth is quietly creating a class that can neither fall back nor move forward.

(Deepanshu Mohan, Professor and Dean, O.P. Jindal Global University, Director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES), Visiting Professor, LSE, and Visiting Research Fellow, University of Oxford; Ankur Singh, Research Assistant, CNES)

Despite regular maintenance, outages remain a constant in city

As per data as of March, Karnataka's peak demand stands at 17,705 MW, with Bescom alone accounting for 8,870 MW

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Despite frequent "maintenance works" undertaken by power utilities, residents across Bengaluru continue to face repeated outages and voltage fluctuations.

Almost every week, multiple areas are notified of scheduled power cuts, often from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or longer, cited as emergency works by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) and Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom). However, residents question what these maintenance works are addressing, pointing out that even light rain or minor disruptions can trigger power cuts multiple times a day.

This comes even as Bengaluru continues to account for nearly half a share of the State's electricity demand. As per data available as of March end, Karnataka's peak demand stands at 17,705 MW, with the Bescom alone accounting for 8,870 MW. Among other distribution companies, Hescom recorded 3,077 MW, followed by CESC at 2,613 MW, Mescom at 1,738 MW, and Gescom at 1,406 MW.

Power demand, generation and consumption in State

State's peak demand	17,705 MW
Bescom	8,870
Mescom	1,738
Gescom	1,406
Hescom	3,077
CESC	2,613

State's peak consumption in MU (million units)	337.2
Bescom	165
Mescom	29
Gescom	45.6
Hescom	57.6
CESC	40

FY	Generation in MU
2020-21	71,271.69
2021-22	75,677.11
2022-23	80,512.17
2023-24	98,877.85
2024-25	97,462.55
2025-26 (Provisional)	96,382.95

Source: Energy Department

Those familiar with the system say the problem goes beyond routine outages and points to stress on infrastructure. FILE PHOTO

Not power cuts

While residents say scheduled outages have become more frequent, with power supply affected every few days across localities, officials maintain that most instances are not "power cuts" but brief interruptions caused by faults in lines that are promptly attended to. They maintained that there is "no shortage" of power. Reflecting further on the figures, the official added that from 2021-22 (financial year) to 2025-26, Karnataka's electricity generation has increased by about 27.4%.

Moreover, residents point to voltage fluctuations as a recurring issue.

Shanti M.S., a resident of HSR Layout, said the inconsistent supply not only disrupts daily activities but also damages electrical appliances because of frequent voltage fluctuations. "These fluctuations are becoming more frequent in areas with a mix of residential and small-scale commercial activity where the load has increased over time," she said, pointing out at the shops and paying guests (PGs) that have recently come up in the area, making the demand high.

System under strain

Those familiar with the system say the problem goes beyond routine outages and points to stress on infrastructure. Much of the network in several parts of the city, including transformers and transmission systems, is ageing and operating under strain. With demand steadily rising, transformers are often pushed close to or beyond their capacity, leading to frequent tripping and unstable supply.

Poor response

Residents also point to a lack of response during outages. Razik Mohammed, a resident of Banaswadi, said that even during prolonged disruptions, helplines remain unresponsive. On occasions when calls do go through, he said there was little follow-up, adding that repeated complaints through the Bescom frequently go unattended.

Adding to the pressure, demand is expected to rise further in the coming summer months, officials acknowledged. In March, the State recorded a total consumption of 337.2 MU (million units), of which the Bescom alone accounted for 165 MU, data shows. Officials, however, assured that preparations are in place to manage increased demand during summer, which is projected to cross or rise to around 350 MU per day in April and May.

Plant shutdown worry

While patchy rains have already contributed to local disruptions, residents say a recent concern has been the shutdown of the Yelahanka gas-based power plant, a key backup facility for managing peak demand between December and April. The plant, which had been generating around 370 MW for the Bengaluru grid since September 2024, halted operations after Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) stopped gas supply on March 12, following the Centre's decision to prioritise gas allocation to other sectors amid shortages linked to the West Asia conflict. Residents fear that the shutdown could add further strain during peak demand periods.

However, the Bescom officials maintained that there was no immediate cause for concern, stating that Bengaluru's electricity needs would continue to be met through thermal, hydel and renewable sources, readily available during the summer months.

Summer Strokes

Cyber fraudsters impersonate BDA Commissioner to swindle people

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division Cybercrime Police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for misusing the name and photograph of the Commissioner of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and created fake WhatsApp accounts to swindle people. According to the complaint lodged by BDA Commissioner Manivannan P. on Thursday, unknown persons used international phone numbers to impersonate the Commissioner. They allegedly used the Commissioner's name and profile picture to send messages to officials and acquaintances, seeking money under false pretences.

The complaint stated that the fraudsters attempted to mislead recipients by posing as a senior government official and requesting financial assistance via WhatsApp messages. Further probe is under way.

Mercury breaches 36 degrees Celsius mark

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru on Monday recorded one of the hottest days of this summer season as the maximum temperature crossed the 36 degrees Celsius mark.

According to India Meteorological Department's (IMD) local forecast for Bengaluru city issued at 5.30 p.m., the city station recorded a maximum temperature of 35.6° C and a minimum temperature of 24.2° C.

The Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) weather station recorded a maximum of 36.1° C and a minimum temperature of 22.7° C and the HAL Airport recorded a maximum of 36.5°C and and a minimum 22.6° C. The IMD further said that in Bengaluru city there was a 1.6 °C departure from the normal and at the KIA and HAL Airport there was a departure of 2.1°C and 2.7°C respectively. The highest ever recorded for the month of April is 39.2°C, recorded in April, 2016. The forecast for the next two days is mainly clear skies becoming partly cloudy towards afternoon and evening. The maximum and minimum temperature is likely to be around 36°C and 24°C respectively.

As the summer intensifies, an elephant tries to cool down with water from a tanker at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Forecast

The IMD forecast for the State said that hot and humid conditions are likely to prevail over Coastal Karnataka for next two days. Heat wave conditions are likely to prevail over a few districts of North-interior Karnataka from April 15 to 17.

Maximum temperature is likely to be above normal by 2-4 °C over most parts of the districts of the North-interior Karnataka during next five days.

It added that the maximum temperature is likely to increase over coastal Karnataka and South-interior Karnataka during the next five days.

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Channapatna Branch No. 2911/4-10, B M Road, Kuvempunagar, Channapatna, Ramanagara - 562160
Ph: 9744880055, 8105899525 Mail Id: ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in

1. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. Mr. Kenchappa M P S/o Kenchegowda Puttaswamaiah, No-62, Malurpatna Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160
2. Mrs. Sugana W/o Kenchappa M P, No-62, Malurpatna Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagara – 562160
Amount due : Rs. 85,00,155-00 as on 31-03-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel of Residential Site And Building In The Name Of **Mr. Kenchappa M P.** Bearing Kaneshumari No. 557/557, E-Katha No 152900101900400597, Situated At Malurpatna Village, Malur Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160. **Measuring North-South: 160 Feet, East-West : (50+80) /2 Total 10400 Square feet (As Per Valuation) Whereas In Actual It Is Measuring East - West : 160 Feet, North - South : (30+70) /2 Total 8000 Square feet, Bouned On The East:** Kariappa, Murlidhar, Shanthamma & Puttaswamy, **West:** Govt Oni, Marana Khatta, **North:** Pvt Property, **South:** Road And Lingaiah's Property

Reserve Price : Rs. 30,60,000-00 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited : Rs. 3,06,000-00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Six Thousand Only)

2. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. M/s Manjushree Enterprises, Old Parvathy Talkies Road, Channapatna, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
2. Mr. Manjunatha H S/o Hanumaiah, No.118, Yelekere, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
3. Mrs. Girija G V W/o Manjunath H, No. 118, Yelekere, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
Amount due : Rs. 27,83,528-00 as on 31-03-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel Of Vacant Site In The Name Of **Mr. H Manjunatha,** Bearing Municipal Katha No. 168, Municipal Door No. 160/116/1, Situated At Vakkaligara Beedi, Yelekeri, Channapatna Town, A Division, Ramanagara Dist, **Measuring 2170 Square feet, Bounded On The East :** S Narayanagowda's Residence, **West :** Property Of Hanumaiah, **North :** Property Of Divakar, **South :** Municipal Road.

Reserve Price : Rs. 26,56,080-00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand and Eighty Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 2,65,608-00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Only)

3. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. Mr. Raju T S S/o Siddegowda, Thubinakere Village, Chakkalore Post, Channapatna, Ramanagara-562160
Amount due : Rs. 76,45,036-00 as on 31-03-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel Of Residential Land And Building In The Name Of **Mr. Raju T S,** Bearing Katha No. 49/49, Property No-152900101900500051, Situated At Thubinakere Village, Malurpatna Grama Panchayath Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist, **Measuring East - West : 44ft, North - South : 31 feet Total 1364 Square feet, Bounded On The East :** House Of Piddegowda, **West :** Road, **North :** House Of Sunandamma, **South :** House Of Chikkolamma

Reserve Price : Rs. 5,21,100-00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty One Thousand and One Hundred Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 52,110-00 (Rupees Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred and Ten Only).

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 30-04-2026 From 12.00 pm to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 14-04-2026
Place : Mysuru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BANGALORE RURAL AT BANGALORE
G&WC NO. 46/2026

Between:
1.Smt. Soumya Mohan W/o Late. Mohan Rao K, Aged about 46 years,
2.Sri.Kushal Rao M S/o. Late. Mohan Rao K, Aged about 21 years,
3.Kum.Samanvi M D/o. Late. Mohan Rao K, Aged about 17 years
Rep. by her natural guardian Soumya Mohan
....Petitioners
All are residing at No.46, 5th Cross, Santhosh Nagar, Attur, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 64
And
NIL **....Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named filed this petition under Section 29 of Guardian and Wards Act, 1809 R/w Section 8(2) of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, for grant of permission to the Petitioner No. 1 (SOUMYA MOHAN) as the natural guardian of the Petitioner No. 3 (Kum. Samanvi M) to sell the Schedule B Property in favour of Sri. Ankesh Hemant Nagar and Sri Hemant Shivchandra Nagar. Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 30.04.2026 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands measuring an extent of 1 Acre 31 Guntas (including 1 Gunta Kharab), forming a part of New Sy. No. 115/1, (previous Sy.No.115, old Sy.No.3) of Byrathihalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk (converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN:SR(PB)SR-09/2008-09, dated: 03/10/2008 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) now coming within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) and assigned New Municipal Khata No.20 and bounded on the:

East by : Sy.No.111 of Byrathihalli Village, West by : Road (Bangalore - Bagalur Main Road), North by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.115/1, South by : Sy.No. 125 of Byrathihalli Village

SCHEDULE B
RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT

Residential Apartment No. C-1003 in the TENTH Floor, Block-II Wing-C, of the "Project" known as "PRIDE PEGASUS" being developed on the Schedule A Property of a carpet area of 107.30 sq. mtrs 1155 sq. ft, along with the exclusive right to use and enjoy the balcony area of 9.09 sq. mtrs 98 sq. ft lying appurtenant to the said residential apartment (subject to variation of +/-2%) and the exclusive right to use and enjoy ONE Covered Car Parking Space/s in the Basement/Ground Floor specifically earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the Purchaser/s along with the right to own the proportionate undivided share, right, title and interest in the common areas including the land comprised in the Schedule A Property.

Givers under my hand & seal of the court, this **10th day of April, 2026.**

By Order of the Court,
Chief Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KIRUTHIKA Rajasekaran, w/o; Rajasekaran, r/o: No 110, 1st Floor, Lorven Urban Crest Chunchagatta Main Road, Opp To Anjaneya Temple, Blr –560062. Have changed my name as Kiruthika Thirunavukkarasu.

I, POORNIMA Shetty, W/o Dinesh, R/at No.153/A, 6th Cross, T R Nagar, B S K 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070, have changed my name from Poornima to Poornima Shetty vide Affidavit dated 06-03-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt D Vimala wife of Late Dharmalingam, resident of Bhdravathi Shimoga have changed my name from D Vimala to D Vimaladevi vide affidavit dt 09 Apr 26 sworn before Notary Bhadravathi.

I, REMA Kumari W/o. Ravi Kumar presently residing in Flat at No.204, 4th Cross, Above New City Super Market, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-560 093 have changed my name from Rema Kumari to Rema Kumari Ravi Kumar vide affidavit dated 13-04-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO
Classroom Batches: Apr 21, May 19
Batch Highlights
▸ 300+ Answers Prepared & Evaluated
▸ Test Series Included ▸ 1-to-1 Mentoring
▸ PYQs Analysis ▸ Full Support Till Success
Recordings Available for Online Students
IAS 2025

Harsh Nehera
AIR 74
303/500

5 OF OUR CLASSROOM STUDENTS SCORED 290+

Anthro Sampoorna Test Series
40 Tests | 1-to-1 Mentorship| Model Answer Content
VAID'S ICS, DELHI
For details visit www.vaidsics.com or call 953 800 1600

Panchayati Raj Department
Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna-800015
Govt. of Bihar

E – TENDER NOTICE

7P/Misc-06-04/2025/5737

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

E-tender notice for selection of Agency for Implementation and Support of Tally-Based Integrated Financial Management System. The three tier Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Bihar, invites tender from eligible and experienced agencies for the supply, customization, installation, deployment, training and support of a **multi-user Tally Software-based Integrated Financial Management System**. The scope of work includes:-

- Provision of Tally Software (multi-user license)
- Integration with designated server
- Customization and deployment of the FMS solution
- Installation across designated government facilities
- Capacity Building and Training support
- Establishment of a helpdesk with a minimum of 48 personnel
- Ongoing technical support and related services

The solution is to be implemented across the offices of the Panchayati Raj Department and other associated department's facilities within the state. The last date & time of downloading & submission of online bidding document is till **27.04.2026 up to 5:00 PM**. Bid document may be submitted online through and may be downloaded from the website https://state.bihar.gov.in/biharprd/citizenHome.html.

(Sunil Kumar Jaiswal)
District Audit Officer
Panchayati Raj Department
Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat,
Patna – 800 015.

PR- 000869 (Panchayati Raj) 2026-27

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(South Western Railway (Open Line)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 1st April, 2026

S.O. 1712(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Central Government hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the Officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for land acquisition required for the public purpose of Execution, Maintenance, Management and Operation of such Special Railway Project.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1.	Sampige Road - Arsikere Section: Proposed Construction of Differential Height RUB at Km. 138/200-300 in lieu of LC No. 82 between Karadi-Tiptur Stations.	Bandihalli (Village) Tiptur (Taluk) Tumakuru (Dist.)	Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumkur - Rayadurga Railway Project, Tumkur	Regional Commissioner, Bangalore

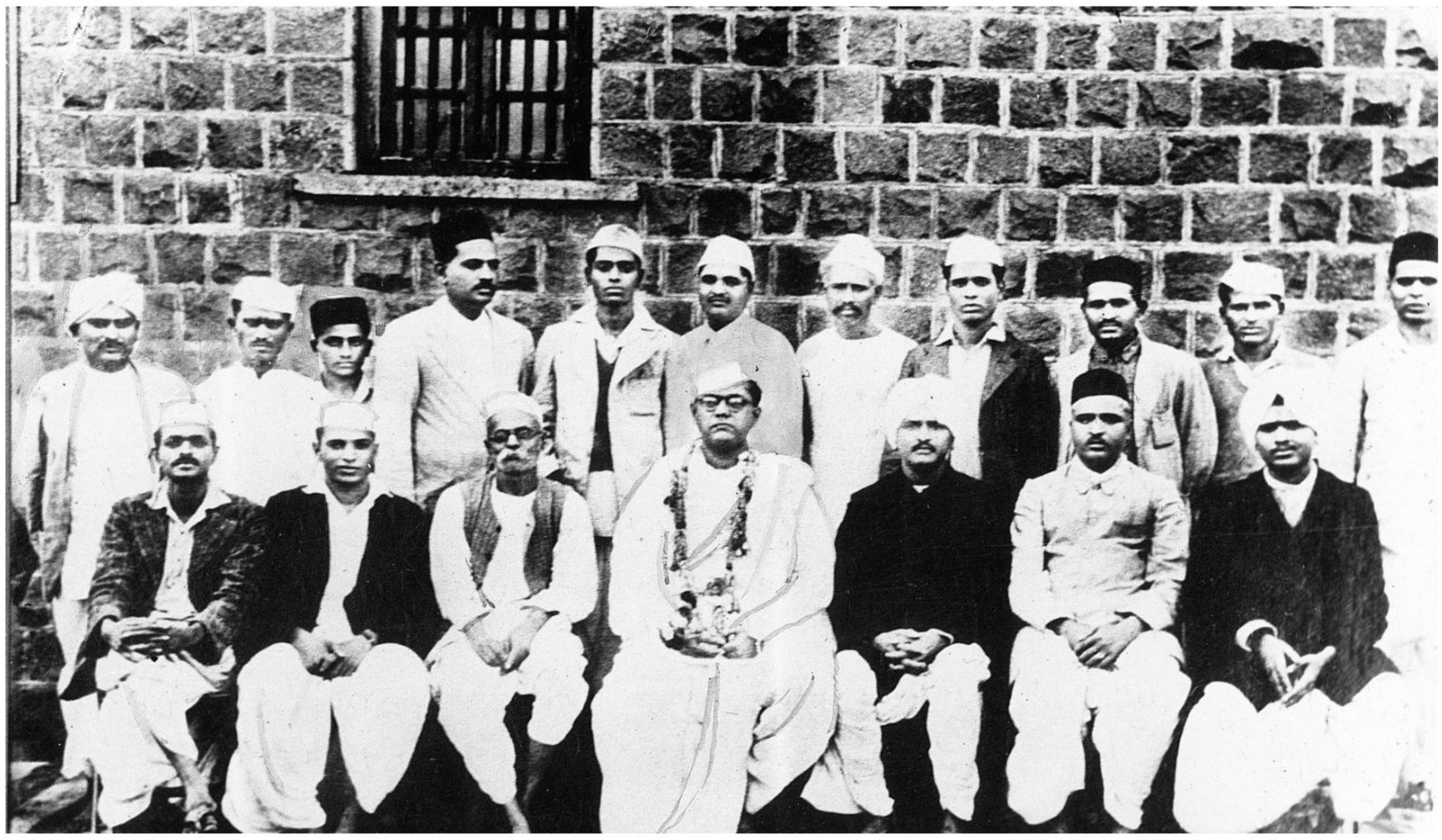
[F.No. W. 277/Land/RUB/TTR] **Ningappa Chandappa Chaluwadi**
Dy. Chief Engineer/Road Over Bridges, Road Safety Projects

PUB/40/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Man of many tales: A photograph of Subhas Chandra Bose (middle with garland) after addressing a public meeting at Beadgi in Dharwar district in 1939. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Subhas Chandra Bose: the paradox of a revolutionary's theory and praxis

The leader synthesised Indian spirituality with Hegelian dialectics, evolving from an absolute idealist into a pragmatic revolutionary seeking to build a modern, socialist India — an analysis on Bose's journey through philosophy, politics, and his plans for society and national regeneration

Prathmesh Kher

On August 18, 1945, a plane carrying Subhas Chandra Bose crashed over Taihoku in Taiwan. With that perished a systematic attempt to forge a "higher synthesis" between the spiritual wisdom of the East and the material dynamism of the West. Bose was neither a dreamer content with abstract philosophy nor a crude pragmatist indifferent to moral questions. As he put it himself, he refused to accept what he "could not live up to–what is not workable".

This piece examines his intellectual journey from absolute idealism to a dialectic conception of reality and its influence on his political doctrine and his revolutionary praxis.

I. Philosophical foundation

Bose's early years were dominated by Vedanta as interpreted by Shankaracharya. He eventually found its core – the Doctrine of Maya, the world as illusion – incompatible with the needs of a revolutionary. In his autobiography *An Indian Pilgrim* (1937), he reflects: "There was a time when I believed that Absolute Truth was within the reach of human mind and that the Doctrine of Maya represented the quintessence of knowledge. Today I would hesitate to subscribe to that position. I have ceased to be an absolutist and am much more of a pragmatist"

Discarding Maya did not push Bose toward materialism. He came instead to view the world as real and evolving: "The world is a manifestation of Spirit and just as Spirit is eternal so also is the world of creation... It reflects the eternal play of eternal forces–the Divine Play, if you will." The essential nature of this reality, for Bose, was moral: "For me, the essential nature of reality is LOVE."

While Bose's "Spirit" was Indian in origin, he found the law of its unfolding in Hegelian Dialectics: "Hegel would dogmatise that the nature of the evolutionary process, whether in the thought world or in reality outside, is dialectic. We progress through conflicts and their solutions. Every thesis provokes an antithesis. This conflict is solved by a synthesis... undoubtedly Hegel's theory is the nearest approximation to truth."

By synthesising Hindu philosophy with Hegelian dialectics, Bose concluded that since reality is Spirit gradually unfolding through conflict, the moral duty of the individual is to participate in that conflict – a belief that directly informed his doctrine of Samyavada.

II. Doctrine of harmonious equality

Rooted in the Sanskrit Sāmya (equality, concord, harmony) and vāda (doctrine), Samyavada was not an imported ideology but a product of India's own philosophical evolution – a "Doctrine of Harmony" designed to resolve the contradictions of the modern age.

Bose did not view Fascism or Communism as finalities but as stages in the dialectical process. In *The Indian Struggle* (1934), he argued that India's role was to resolve their conflict: "The conflict between Fascism on the one side and Communism on the other... I see no reason why we cannot work out a synthesis of the two systems that will embody the good points of both"

He was equally critical of those who sought to blindly transplant foreign ideologies onto Indian soil. In *Forward Bloc – Its Justification* (1941): "The Forward Bloc is a revolutionary and dynamic organisation. As such it does not swear by copy-book maxims or by text-books of Politics or Economics. It is anxious to assimilate all the knowledge that the outside world can give... It regards progress or evolution as an eternal process to which India also has a contribution to make."

Bose framed Samyavada as India's specific gift to the world's political lineage. In *The Anti-Imperialist Struggle and Samyavada* (1933), he traced a line of national contributions, from England's constitutionalism, the French notions of liberty and fraternity, to Germany's Marxism and the proletarian revolution of Russia, and declared: "The next remarkable contribution to the culture and civilisation of the world, India will be called upon to make."

In practice, Samyavada was a blueprint for a "thoroughly modern and Socialist State". His 1941 Kabul thesis listed its goals: complete national independence, scientific large-scale production, social ownership and control of production and distribution, and "application of the principles of equality and social justice in building up the New Order in Free India."

III. Scientific Blueprint

For Bose, political freedom was merely the threshold. The real task was the total social and economic regeneration of the country. Addressing the Punjab Students' Conference in 1929, he defined independence in sweeping terms: "For me, it signifies independence for all – for the society, as well as the individual, for man as well as woman, for the rich as well as the poor; and implies not merely political freedom, but an equal distribution of wealth, removal of caste differences and social injustice, and abolition of all communal narrownesses and bigotry."

As he moved into Congress leadership, he shifted from defining freedom to planning its mechanical implementation. A staunch advocate of industrialisation, he set himself apart from the Gandhian focus on agrarian self-sufficiency.

In his 1938 Haripura Presidential Address: "The first step in national reconstruction will be the eradication of poverty... This will require the scientific reorganisation of our agricultural and industrial life... I am a firm believer in the social ownership and control of both production and distribution."

Bose also became convinced that a fractured, impoverished India could not afford slow-moving, decentralised democracy during reconstruction. In *The Indian Struggle* (1934), he wrote: "It will be a Government of a strong Adarsha Sangh... which will have a strong Central Government with full powers for the period of reconstruction... a Federal Government for India but a strong Central Government with a certain amount of authoritarianism for a period of time."

It must be noted that Bose was living in an era when authoritarianism had caught the imagination of many nations, from Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, Soviet Russia, Kemalist Turkey, all of whom had undergone massive economic and cultural changes under centralised rule. Political theories, however, must be evaluated in the light of their times. Modern rights-based societies should rightfully question the prudence of and resist an appeal to authoritarianism as a shortcut solution to structural problems.

(First in a two-part series)

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on International Day of Human Space Flight, observed on April 12

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION #1
On that date, 65 years ago, Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. What was the name of his spacecraft and what Russian word meaning 'Let's go!' or 'We're off!' did he utter that has become a tradition among Russian spacepersons.

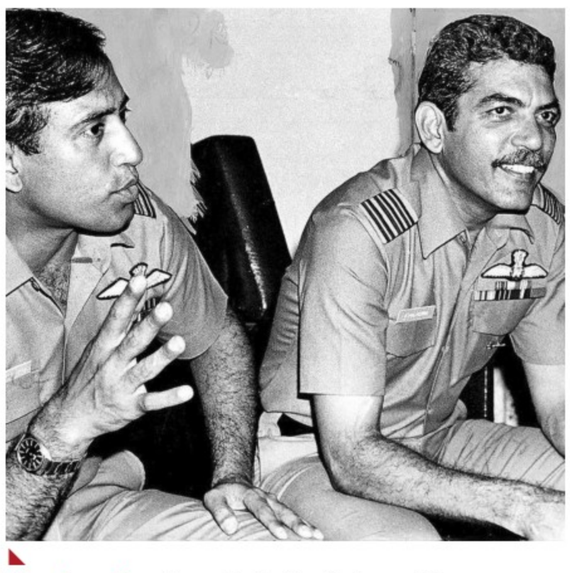
QUESTION #2
What space first was achieved by cosmonaut Alexei Leonov on March 18, 1965?

QUESTION #3
Name the cosmonaut who holds the record for the longest single, uninterrupted human spaceflight at 437 days and 18 hours.

QUESTION #4
What is the 'Karman Line' (named after Hungarian-American engineer and physicist Theodore von Karman) in the context of space exploration?

QUESTION #5
Going to space once is a big achievement. Jerry Ross and Franklin Chang-Diaz hold the record for most spaceflights. How many?

QUESTION #6
Name the Chinese-built space station that is the only live space station apart from the ISS.



Visual question: Name the Indian Air Force officer seen with Rakesh Sharma who served as the backup cosmonaut in 1984? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Because of personal reasons, Asha started playback singing at the age of 10. What was her first Hindi song recorded for 'Chunariya' in 1948? **Ans: Saawan Aaya**

2. Name the music director who helped Asha build a distinct identity because of his reluctance to work with her sister Lata in the 1950s and 1960s? **Ans: O.P. Nayyar.**

3. In 2011, Asha was acknowledged by Guinness World Records as the most recorded artist in music history with how many songs in more than how many languages? **Ans: 11,000 songs in more than 20 languages.**

4. In 1997, Asha became the first Indian singer to get a Grammy nomination for 'Legacy - 16th-18th Century Music from India', a collaborative classical album recorded with which famous Sarod great? **Ans: Ali Akbar Khan.**

5. Name the two Asha songs sampled by Black Eyed Peas for their 2005 hit "Don't Phunk With My Heart". **Ans: 'Yeh Mera Dil' and 'Ae Naujawan Hai Sab Kuchh Yahan'.**

6. She debuted as a lead actress in 2013 at the age of 79 for a Marathi film. Name the flick. **Ans: 'Mai'**

7. For singing in which Rekha-starrer did Asha win her maiden National film award and in which year did she get the Dadasaheb Phalke Award? **Ans: 'Umrao Jaan' and 2000**

Visual: Name the song that Asha and the ace Australian cricketer Brett Lee crooned together. **Ans: 'You're the One for Me'**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamanjit Bisla | Dodo Jayaditya | Dil Bahadur Airee | Vinil Mehta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"YOU'RE LATE again!"

"I know! I know! The Guptas are moving out. They wanted me to help them pack. You know they are disposing some of their old things and ....."

" .... disposing of."

"What?"

"They are disposing of some of their old things. When you use 'dispose' in the sense of 'to get rid of or give away,' it is usually followed by 'of'. You don't 'dispose' something, you 'dispose of something.

"I see. Can I say, my mother disposed of all my old clothes?"

"You certainly can. Here's another example. The murderer had disposed of all the bodies by the time the police arrived."

"Maybe he'll come after you now!"

"If he does, I'll give him your address."

"Thanks. With friends like you, who needs enemies? Devi disposed of all his shares three weeks ago."

"He is very lucky. The market crashed a week ago. I need to dispose of these old newspapers."

"Some of our politicians want judges to dispose of their cases very quickly.'

"Do you think you'll miss the Guptas?"

"I am not really sure. Mrs. Gupta is a wonderful cook. I'll miss her samosas. But it's no fun talking to them, though. They smell garlic all the time."

"They smell garlic all the time! You mean the Guptas have garlic in their hand which they keep sniffing while they are talking to you?"

"Of course, not! That would be a silly thing to do."

"Then how do you know they smell garlic all the time?"

"Because when they open their mouth, I can smell the garlic."

"Oh, I see what you mean. They don't 'smell' garlic, they 'smell of garlic."

"You mean to say there is a difference between the two?"

"Of course, there is. When someone smells garlic from time to time, they take a piece of garlic to their nose and smell it."

"It's like smelling the flowers while one is out in the garden!"

"Exactly! But when you 'smell of' garlic, it means as soon as you open your mouth, everyone knows that you have eaten garlic."

"In other words, you stink of garlic."

"I guess you could say that. John smelled the food before putting it in his mouth."

"You mean 'smelt', don't you?"

"Smelled. Smelt. Both are equally acceptable."

"I see. When Gautham came home, he smelled of whisky."

"He had too much to drink, perhaps?"

"That's right. The old man smelled of raw onions."

"That's a good example. Are you referring to Dr. Sudhakar?"

"Yes, I am. He eats non-stop."

"Dr. Sudhakar is a foodaholic, isn't he?"

"Foodaholic? What does it mean?"

"What does 'workaholic' mean?"

"A workaholic is a person who loves to work. Usha, for example, is a workaholic."

"Similarly, a 'foodaholic' is someone who loves .... "

Published in The Hindu on April 11, 2000

Word of the day

Nadir:
an extreme state of adversity; the lowest point of anything

Synonyms: hardship, rock bottom

Usage: *The relationship between the two countries reached a nadir in the 1920s*

Pronunciation: /ˈneɪdɪər/

International Phonetic Alphabet: newsth.live/nadir

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Sponsorship Scheme: 26,767 child beneficiaries not paid for a year

Under the scheme, eligible children get ₹4,000 each month for three years or until they turn 18, whichever comes first

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A significant number of child beneficiaries under the Sponsorship Scheme, who are entitled to a monthly allowance, have not been paid for the past year in Karnataka. As many as 26,767 orphaned, vulnerable or single-parent children have been registered under the scheme in the Women and Child Development Department.

Under the scheme, jointly implemented by the State and the Centre (with a 60:40 share), eligible children were to receive ₹4,000 each month for three years or until they turn 18, whichever comes first.

The amount would be directly deposited into the children's bank accounts. However, a two-fold challenge has hindered the implementation of the scheme. About 8,439 children have not received payments because they have not been recognised as beneficiaries by the Centre, while the remaining 18,328 beneficiaries are unpaid due to a technical glitch.

About 8,439 children have not received payments because they have not been recognised as beneficiaries by the Centre.

Technical glitch

Minister for Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens, Lakshmi R. Hebbalkar, told the House during the recently concluded session that the new SNA SPARSH DBT system had been implemented to directly credit the allowance to beneficiaries' bank accounts. However, she said the transition to the new system involved multiple stages and that technical glitches had delayed the release of grants. She also stated that the Union government has released the first instalment of ₹32 crore (60%) under the Sponsorship Scheme in January 2026. "The State government too has ordered the release of a total grant of ₹53.34 crore, including 40% share of ₹21.34 crore,"

A two-fold challenge has hindered the implementation of the scheme

she explained. Arundhati, in-charge officer of the Sponsorship Scheme, further explained to *The Hindu* that the file has been sent to the Union government online.

"The Union government should give approval for this and send it to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Then, the RBI will credit the amount to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. The online portal shows that the Union government has also approved the file and sent it to the RBI on April 1. So, the RBI will soon credit the amount to the beneficiaries' accounts," said Ms. Arundathi.

Those left out

On 8,439 children being left out, she said that while a total of 26,767 candidates have registered under the scheme in the State, the Union government has approved only 18,328 beneficiaries on a first-come, first-served basis. "We have submitted a proposal to extend the scheme to the remaining," she said. Meanwhile, beneficiaries eagerly await the long-pending dues.

"I lost both my father and mother in the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic four years back, and am under the protection of relatives. I have registered under the Sponsorship Scheme, but no monthly allowance has been deposited into my bank account for the past year. I am a college student, and I depend on this money for education and other expenses," said a female beneficiary from Kolar district who did not wish to be named.

The mother of a beneficiary from Bengaluru said she was a single parent and had registered her Persons with Disabilities (PwD) child under the scheme.

"I am facing difficulties without the monthly allowance. It is also difficult to leave a PwD at home and go to work. When I approach the officials, they say it is due to a technical problem. But does it take a year to fix a technical problem?" she asked.

Rare comet will be visible in pre-dawn skies till April 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A comet named C/2025 R3 (Pan-STARRS) will be visible for observers in Bengaluru and across southern India in the early morning hours till April 20.

Deepak Choudhary, an avid astronomy enthusiast, who had recently captured the images of the Comet C/2025 R3 (PanSTARRS) said that it is a newly discovered comet identified by the Pan-STARRS survey.

He said that it is currently visible in the early morning sky and appears low on the horizon just before sunrise.

"While not visible to the naked eye under most conditions, it can be observed through small telescopes or smart imaging devices like the Seestar S50. The comet is expected to remain observable for a limited window over the coming weeks, gradually fading as it moves away from the Sun," he said.

He added that as the comet approaches its closest point to the Sun, known as perihelion during April 19 and 20, it is expected to reach peak brightness. "Astronomers estimate it could shine between magnitude three and five, making it potentially visible to the naked eye under dark skies, though binoculars significantly enhance the view. For observers in Bengaluru and across southern India, the comet has been visible in the early morning hours between April 10 and April 20, appearing low above the eastern horizon shortly before sunrise. The optimal viewing window has been between 5 a.m. and 5.45 a.m., requiring a clear, unobstructed horizon and favorable weather conditions," he added.

An image of Comet C/2025 R3 (Pan-STARRS) captured in Mallavalli early on April 12, captured by astronomy enthusiast Deepak Choudhary.

Mr. Choudhary said that he captured the images of the comet near Malavalli on April 12.

The comet was discovered on September 8, 2025, by the Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Hawaii. It is believed to originate from the distant Oort Cloud, a vast, spherical reservoir of icy bodies at the outermost reaches of the solar system.

Census: Enumerators cite pending pay, area allotment issues

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With the house-listing phase I of the National Census 2027 set to begin from April 16, enumerators from Bengaluru, say they are yet to receive full payment for their work during the Karnataka government's Socio-Educational Survey that was concluded in October, 2025, even as they are being assigned fresh duties.

Several enumerators said they were being asked to take up Census work without pending dues being cleared, forcing many to once again spend money from their own pockets.

They also flagged that, unlike during the earlier survey, they have not been given the option to choose their blocks this time. Many said they have been assigned areas over 10 km away from where they live or work, adding to their travel time and expenses. Officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), however, said that payments for daily house-to-house visits have already been disbursed, and that the fixed remuneration component, a base amount of ₹5,000, is still pending due to gaps in data linking enumerators to specific blocks. "In cases where more than two enumerators worked in a single block, the amount would be split among them," the officials said. They added that delays were also due to the extension of the survey deadline, which required redeployment of staff to low-coverage areas, and that the remuneration payments would be cleared soon. The enumerators, however, contested this, arguing that the remuneration had originally been communicated as an individual entitlement and not something to be shared. They said the change was neither clearly conveyed nor fair, especially since the amount was meant to cover their expenses. As per the initial communication, enumerators were to receive a fixed ₹5,000 along with additional payments per household surveyed.

On average, each enumerator covered 150 to 200 households. Payments were set at ₹50 for households with up to two members and ₹100 for those with more, which would total roughly ₹15,000 to ₹23,000 per enumerator.

A file photo of enumerators interacting with a family during the Social and Educational Survey in Bengaluru in 2025.

Self-enumeration data (as of April 13, 10 a.m.)

	District	Households 2026 (expected)	Progress	Progress percentage
Highest	Ballari	2,98,536	35,356	11.84
	Bagalkot	4,40,602	48,395	10.98
	Dakshina Kannada	5,67,256	57,466	10.13
	Tumakuru	7,80,899	67,840	8.69
	Vijayanagara	2,88,406	23,384	8.11
Lowest	Kolar	4,06,685	3,762	0.93
	Bengaluru Urban	33,51,383	32,907	0.98
	Chamarajanagar	2,98,747	3,604	1.21
	Mysuru	9,11,259	11,034	1.21
	Belagavi	12,00,302	14,606	1.22

Technical glitches

Krishna M., an enumerator from Bescom told *The Hindu* that he was expecting ₹21,650 but has not received any payment so far. When he followed up, he said he was told there was an issue with his IFSC code, a claim he disputes. A government school teacher, Roza Mirza, who was also assigned enumeration duty said she was informed that her bank details were not available, despite having submitted them on time.

While some enumerators confirmed receiving partial payments, many raised concerns specifically about the pending remuneration component. They said they were later informed that the base amount would be shared among multiple enumerators in a block, which they argued contradicts what was initially promised.

The enumerators also raised concerns over the fresh Census duties. "My house is in Hebbal, but I have been assigned Domlur," an enumerator said, pointing to the additional time and cost involved. Requests for reassignment were turned down, with officials citing uneven distribution of personnel across corporations.

The officials maintained that efforts were made to ensure continuity by assigning some enumerators to the same areas where they had worked during the earlier caste survey. They added that health considerations were also taken into account but said offering choice-based allocation this time was not feasible due to uneven participation previously, which had led to delays and multiple deadline extensions. They further said the allocation was done keeping in mind the uneven distribution of schools across the GBA corporations and that assigning enumerators based on their place of residence or work would leave some areas understaffed while others would have a surplus.

The GBA has released the first exemption list already, and a second list will be released before the final enumerator's allocation, officials confirmed.

Self-enumeration

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru Urban, as of April 13 (10 a.m.), only 32,907 houses have completed self-enumeration so far, against an expected 33.51 lakh, with the district among the lowest performers.

Ballari has reported the highest number of self-enumerated households at 35,356, accounting for 11.84% progress, followed by Bagalkot and Dakshina Kannada.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 14		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:32
RISE	03:36	SET 15:44
WEDNESDAY, APR. 15		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:32
RISE	04:15	SET 16:36
THURSDAY, APR. 16		
RISE	06:07	SET 18:32
RISE	04:56	SET 17:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	20
Bengaluru	34	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Neighbours fight like cat and dog over kittens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police or the legal authorities stepping in to resolve a paternity issue is not uncommon, but what unfolded in a locality in Seshadripuram was nothing short of bizarre.

A neighbourhood dispute over the "custody" of four kittens took an unusual turn, necessitating the intervention by the Bengaluru City Police, who ultimately brokered a peaceful settlement between two families.

The incident, reported in the limits of the Seshadripuram Police Station, began after a resident's male pet cat allegedly mated with a neighbour's female cat, which later gave birth to four kittens.

Tensions escalated when the female cat's owners brought the kittens to their neighbour's house and demanded that the latter assume responsibility for raising them, claiming their pet was the "father". The demand soon led to a heated argument between the two sides.

As the situation threatened to spiral, the police were alerted. A team from the Hoysala patrolling unit rushed to the spot and intervened to defuse the situation. After hearing both parties, the officers devised a practical solution to resolve the dispute. The kittens were handed over to a neutral third party, ensuring that neither family was burdened with their care and restoring calm in the locality. The police said the timely intervention prevented the disagreement from escalating further and highlighted the wide range of situations, some bizarre, handled by field personnel in maintaining public order.

The incident began after a resident's male pet cat allegedly mated with a neighbour's female cat.

Jumbo that fell into open well near Sullia in Dakshina Kannada rescued

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

A wild elephant fell into an open well at Kalcharpe, near Peraje, under the Sullia forest range in Dakshina Kannada on Sunday night. Forest Department officials who rescued it drove the pachyderm back to the nearby forest on Monday.

According to Anthony S. Mariappa, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Dakshina Kannada, the elephant fell into the 30 ft deep defunct well in Rama Naika's land in Aletti village at about 11.30 p.m. on Sunday. It was rescued after about six hours, in an operation which went on from 6 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Monday.

A sloped trench to the well was dug up using an earthmover, and ramps were created to rescue the pachyderm. Once it was complete, the elephant walked out of the well using the ramps. Fodder, banana, sugarcane, and water were offered to the elephant while the rescue efforts were in progress.

Meanwhile, a herd of wild elephants was spotted on the Kumaradhara river near '102-Nettilady' village in Kadaba taluk, Dakshina Kannada district, on April 10 and 11. The wild animals damaged some farm land. The herd has eight elephants, including a baby.

The herd camped in the rubber plantation of the Karnataka Forest Development Corporation at Koriyar village during the day on April 11. Later that night, they moved to the forest areas of Kenya and Yenekal, sources said.

On March 2, the State government issued an order constituting a 28-member Elephant Task Force (ETF) for Dakshina Kannada to drive back wild elephants to the forest to mitigate human-animal conflict. The ETF is based in Sullia. Its personnel took part in the rescue operation on Monday with other personnel of different departments, including those from fire and emergency services and police.

Between 2022 and 2025, six people have died in attacks by wild elephants in Dakshina Kannada. Of them, two were women.

The elephant was rescued in an operation which went on from 6 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Cong. moves to quell dissent amid fissures in Muslim leadership

At least 3 leaders have been accused of either refraining from campaigning in bypolls or making just a guest appearance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Davangere South Assembly constituency bypolls have opened up fissures in the Muslim leadership, even as Congress fears the development could hand over the advantage to the BJP in the long run.

At a time when the SDPI and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM are waiting to garner Muslim votes, the leadership fight is being seen as one that could open up that space, resulting in a split of Muslim voters who are now seen to be rallying behind the Congress.

In the run-up to elections, slogans were raised against the Congress by loyalists of some Muslim Congress leaders.

More than a dozen rebels who were in the fray were later convinced to withdraw to prevent handing over the advantage to the BJP due to a vote split.

At least three big leaders in the party have been accused of either refraining from campaigning or making just a guest appearance, and some Congress leaders have been accused of tacitly helping the SDPI candidate.

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, who is seen in the inner circle of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, is being accused of indulging in anti-party activities. FILE PHOTO

An unprecedented press conference by two Muslim lawmakers - Rizwan Arshad and Saleem Ahmed - last week saw them accusing a section of minority leaders of conspiring against the Congress's official nominee.

Can prove costly

"If disciplinary action is not taken, it could create a big disadvantage for the Congress. In many other States, fringe Muslim parties have emerged at the cost of Congress by splitting votes," a party source said, pointing to Chief Minister's political secretary Naseer Ahmed being asked to resign and Minorities Cell chairman Abdul Jabbar's resignation being accepted.

The party leadership, based on a report, is learnt to have asked both to exit.

In veiled references, Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, seen in the inner circle of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has been accused of indulging in anti-party activities.

According to two Muslim leaders, the trio (Mr. Zameer, Mr. Jabbar and Mr. Naseer) "acted independently", and even tried to drag Muslim religious leaders to complicate the election campaign for the Congress. The Chief Minister had to intervene on multiple occasions to sort out the matter, they said.

"It is true that Muslim electorate is big in Davangere, but the party will go by winnability and the precedence of offering a ticket to a family member of a deceased leader. We are yet to understand the reason behind the manoeuvres of the three senior leaders. They did not emerge reliable for the party," said one of the leaders. Mr. Zameer did not do the groundwork properly and provide a panel of names; instead, he gave the name of only Mr. Jabbar as a potential candidate, another leader said.

Reshuffle hopes

The development also comes amid rumours of an imminent Cabinet reshuffle, which has provided hope to Cabinet hopefuls from the community that include former Minister and KPCC working president Tanveer Sait, Saleem Ahmed and Rizwan Arshad, besides Speaker U.T. Khader, vying to get in by either replacing Mr. Zameer and Rahim Khan or through an addition.

"It is not only among the Muslim community that there is competition, it also exists in every community. It is natural. However, one who gets the leadership position (Cabinet rank) should take care of the community.

In this case, ego and one-upmanship of a few leaders prevailed over the party's interest," one of the leaders lamented.

Scapegoat?

However, a source close to the Housing Minister said that there have been attempts to find a "scapegoat" if the Congress were to lose, and that the Minister was busy campaigning in Kerala as per the plan. "He did take part in the bypolls campaigning too," insisted the source.

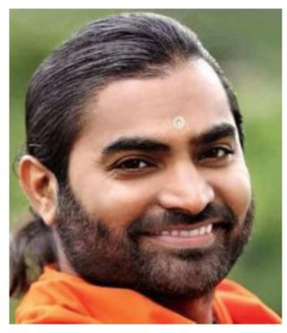
Vachananand Swami expelled from Harihar Panchamasali Peetha

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Vachananand Swami of Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Guru Peetha of Harihar was expelled from the Peetha (religious chair) on Monday after a majority decision by the trustees. The decision came amid high drama over the 'Lekka Kodi' (give accounts) campaign by a section of devotees on the Peetha premises.

The meeting of the trustees was held at the Guru Peetha in Harihar on Monday, and 13 out of the 15 trustees voted in favour of expelling the seer from the Peetha. Speaking to press persons after the meeting, trustees of the Guru Peetha Bavi Bettappa and Basavaraj Dindur announced the decision to expel the seer.

"On April 20, 2018, we anointed Vachananand Swami as the head of the Veerashaiva Panchamalai Guru Peetha at Harihar. When he was asked to choose between Shwaasa Yoga Peetha, which he headed, and the Panchamasali Guru Peetha, he chose the latter. However, despite repeated requests and extensions, he chose not to abdicate Shwaasa Yoga Peetha. So we have decided to expel him," they announced.



Vachananand Swami

Even as the meeting was under way, several devotees staged a demonstration under the 'Lekka Kodi' campaign demanding that the trustees provide proper accounts of the funds. A heavy posse of police personnel was deployed. The campaign was launched after allegations of misuse of the Peetha's funds emerged.

A few days ago, the chief trustee of the Guru Peetha B.C. Umapathy had raised the issue of the seer not making the final decision on abdicating the Shwaasa Yoga Peetha.

Second to be expelled

Vachananand Swami is the second Lingayat Panchamasali seer to be expelled in less than a year. In September 2025, Akhila Bharat Lingayat Panchamasali Samaj expelled Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami from the Panchamasali Peetha at Kudalasangama in Bagalkot district on charges of deviating from the objectives of the establishment of the Peetha. In fact, the earlier seer of the Peetha at Harihar Siddalinga Swami was also expelled over allegations of financial mismanagement and misuse of funds in 2015.

The Panchamasli Peethas at Harihar and at Kudalasangama are the prominent religious chairs of the demographically strong Lingayat Panchamasali community. Although a third Panchamasali Peetha was also established in 2022, it does not have much influence over the community.

Seer reacts

Meanwhile, Vachananand Swami has termed his expulsion ludicrous.

"Because the trustees were asked to provide accounts, I was targeted and expelled through a systematic conspiracy. I will take a suitable decision after consulting the devotees," he said.

SHLCC approves 17 investment proposals worth ₹18,430.44 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State High Level Clearances Committee (SHLCC) on Monday cleared 11 new investment proposals and six additional investment proposals, together worth around ₹18,430.44 crore.

These proposals are expected to create an additional 15,032 jobs in the State, according to a statement by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who presided over the SHLCC meeting.

Giving the break-up of investments, he said the 11 new proposals would bring investments to the tune of ₹14,906.9 crore and create 13,050 additional jobs.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the 67th meeting of the State High Level Clearances Committee in Bengaluru on Monday.

Similarly, the six additional/amended proposals would bring investments of ₹3,523.54 crore besides creating 1,982 new jobs.

Volvo investment

According to a release by the office of Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil, the new investment proposals that got clearance included that by M/s Volvo Group India Private Limited to the tune of ₹1,500 crore in Bengaluru Rural District with a potential to create 1,700 new jobs; and ₹ 1,356 crore by M/s Aerostructures Manufacturing India Private Limited in Belagavi with a potential to create 1,350 new jobs in the aerospace sector.

The investment proposals also include that of ₹1,028 crore by M/s River Mobility Private Limited in Kolar, which has the potential to create 900 new jobs in the EV and automobile sectors.

In addition, these proposals also include ₹1,000 crore investment in the solar sector in Chickballapura district and ₹1,000 crore investment in automobiles and aerospace sector in Bengaluru.

HDK, M.B. Patil hold talks on setting up industrial hub in Mandya district

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Efforts are on to push for the industrial development of the agrarian Mandya district by examining the possibility of setting up a comprehensive industrial hub in over 500 acres. A meeting in this regard was held between Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, who also represents Mandya in the Lok Sabha, and Karnataka's Industries Minister M.B. Patil in Bengaluru.

The Union government has shown interest in establishing an A.R.A.I. (Automotive Research Association of India) centre in Mandya district. Both Ministers are looking beyond this and exploring the possibility of developing an industrial park spread over at least 500 acres. They also directed officials to identify suitable land for the project.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, and State Industries Minister, M.B. Patil, holding a meeting at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"If the A.R.A.I centre is established on just 100 acres, it will remain a standalone facility. It would be more appropriate to develop a comprehensive industrial hub of at least 500 acres, incorporating the proposed A.R.A.I centre and support the growth of the automobile sector. Mr. Kumaraswamy has also agreed to this proposal," Mr. Patil said. Mr. Kumaraswamy had earlier sought 100 acres in Mandya district for setting up the A.R.A.I centre, which conducts vehicle testing and certification.

Mr. Patil said, "We had identified 105 acres near Basaralu, and this has largely been agreed upon. However, with the proposal to develop an industrial hub now under consideration, alternative land options have been suggested. About 425 acres of land near Belluru, adjacent to the Bengaluru-Mangaluru national highway, was acquired in 2021 for industrial purposes, with compensation yet to be fully disbursed."

MLAs aspiring for Cabinet berths meet Kharge in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of Congress legislators, who are seeking a Cabinet reshuffle so that they could be accommodated, met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi on Monday even as KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, felt that it was not the right time to lobby for ministerial berths since elections were still going on. It is learnt that while 22 legislators had reached Delhi and met Mr. Kharge, a few of them have returned to take part in the Ambedkar Jayanti function on Tuesday.

"We have sought appointment from central leaders and more legislators will arrive in Delhi when the appointments are fixed," senior legislator and former Minister T.B. Jayachandra told *The Hindu* over the phone from Delhi. He added that they had appealed to Mr. Kharge to initiate Cabinet reshuffle at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar, who is learnt to be opposed to a reshuffle but is pushing for leadership change, told presspersons that there was nothing wrong in legislators meeting the party high command. "Even first-time and second-time legislators can become Ministers. This has happened before. But this is not the right time. Elections are still going on." Warning legislators against making unnecessary statements in public that would attract disciplinary action, he said, "all legislators should maintain discipline. They should not damage the party's reputation before the media. The Chief Minister has already spoken on this matter. Everyone's future lies with the party and not the media."

On whether legislators had consulted him before proceeding to Delhi, he acknowledged that some had.

Harsh Gupta transferred out of Health Department

BENGALURU: Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Gupta, has been transferred. Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, has been transferred and appointed Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Secretary, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, has been transferred and appointed Secretary, Revenue. Salma K. Fahim, Secretary, Labour, has been given the concurrent charge of Secretary, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood.

Government of Karnataka
District Health & Family Welfare Office, Koppal
Phone: 08539-221660 E-Mail: dhokoppal@gmail.com
Ref: DHO/KOPPAL/EST-1/77/2025-26 DATE: 13-04-2026

NOTIFICATION

WALK-IN interview is called for MBBS and Specialist Doctors for vacant posts in Koppal District such as GDMO, Specialists, CMO, SMO and MO on contract basis for the period of one year. Walk-In interview is scheduled from **18.04.2026** till all vacant posts are filled.

Hence interested candidates can attend **WALK-IN interview** scheduled from **18.04.2026** at **11.00AM** in District Health and Family Welfare Office Koppal along with original Educational documents, Reservation certificates, **371** J certificate and other documents with a set of photocopy and 02 passport size photos. Selection will be done based on merit cum roster following the current rules and guidelines including **371** J (Kalyan Karnataka) norms. The appointing authority has power to increase or decrease the number of posts while appointing. The walk-in interview shall continue everyday till all the vacant posts are filled.

For more information contact District Health and Family Welfare Office Koppal. **Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer Koppal**
DIPR/Koppal/25/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2026-27/46 Date:13/04/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Supply of Equipments to Emergency Department KIMS Koppal, under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.

Tender Notification No and Date: 01 KIMS/Koppal/Tender/Emergency/ 2026-27 Date: 13/04/2026 **Particulars:** Supply of Equipments to Emergency Department KIMS Koppal. **Approx Cost (in Lakhs):** 100.02 **EMD Rs.:** Rs.1,50,000/-

1) Tender documents may download from the **15/04/2026** from 05.30PM 2) Tender must be submitted online on before **14/05/2026** up to 5.30PM 3) Technical Bids will be opened on **16/05/2026** @11.30AM 4) Price Bid will be opened on **20/05/2026** @11.30 AM

Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

DIPR/Koppal/22/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Buildings Division, S.J.P. Campus. Bengaluru.
Phone: 080-22255210 Fax: 080-22250755 E-mail: eebld@kpwd.gov.in eebld@yahoo.com
No. EE/Bld1/AE-3/2026-27/03 Date: 10.04.2026

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

This office Tender Notification EE/Bld1/AE-3/2026-27/02/10.04.2026 for the work has been published on. The following corrigendum is issued. Name of Work- Providing Repair and Renovation to 16 No.s, General Toilets, Providing partition works at 3rd floor and 4th floor at 1st stage and renovation of car parking shed, fabrication and other allied works at Lokayuktha office M.S. Building, Bengaluru. **(PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35267/CALL-2)**

Sl. No.	Particulars	As in KW 4 Bid Document uploaded & Under Technical Qualification Criteria	To be Read as both in KW 4 Bid Document & KPP Portal
1	As per KPP Portal	3.1 To qualify for award of this contract each Tenderer in his name should have in the last five years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25	3.2 To qualify for award of this contract, each Tenderer in his name should have in the last five years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 & 2025-26
2	As per KPP Portal	(updated to 2025-26 price level)	(updated to 2026-27 price level)

Note: 1. All other conditions remain un-altered

Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/159/KSMCA/2026-27

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Smt. Radha Narayanan M.A., B.Ed
(wife of Shri. J. Narayanan)

A writer, educator, and former Principal of Maharishi Vidya Mandir School, left for her heavenly abode on 12th April 2026 at 10:07 pm. She was a woman of grace and quiet strength, who has inspired countless young minds through generations. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, she was the heart of her family, whose warmth, values, and gentle guidance will be cherished forever. She will be fondly remembered by her family, relatives, friends, and fellow teachers.

Deeply Mourned by:
J. Narayanan, Jayashree & R. Mahesh, Ramkumar Narayanan & Rajeswari Ramkumar

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, **Hubballi:** 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Telangana CM moots hybrid, GSDP-based delimitation method

Blanket increase in Lok Sabha seats by 50% would widen the gap between States such as Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, says Revanth Reddy

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Terming the recent delimitation exercise a dangerous move, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reiterated his argument that blanket increase of 50% seats as the sole criterion for delimitation would disproportionately benefit northern States and warned that this could affect the integrity of the nation, with southern States feeling marginalised in their own country.

To overcome this, Mr. Reddy proposed a 'hybrid model' for seat increase, suggesting that of the proposed increase in the seats, 50% seats should be distributed on a pro-rata basis and the remaining 50% based on Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), thereby rewarding States contributing more to the national economy.

"Reward the Southern states for their contribution to the country's economy. We will not agree to losing out politically and be marginalised in the country while continuously contributing huge to the nation's growth," he said on Monday. "This is not a BJP's issue but the issue of all the political parties and the people," he added.

Highlighting potential disparities, the Chief Minister pointed out that increasing seats by 50% would widen the gap between states like Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Kerala now has 20 seats and U.P. has 80 seats, with the difference being 60 seats. In the proposed hike, this difference will increase to 90 seats.

"Similar is the situation in all the Southern states," he argued adding that the small States in north India such as Punjab or north-eastern States too will lose their political relevance.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addresses a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Sanjay Kumar accuses CM of stoking fear over the issue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Monday, mounted a sharp attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of creating "baseless fear and division" over the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar questioned the "scientific basis" of the argument and asked whether the Congress intended to prioritise economic contribution over democratic representation.

e-Swathu 2.0 upgraded to resolve key issues: Priyank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and IT and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge on Monday announced a series of improvements to the e-Swathu 2.0 platform aimed at resolving key technical issues and enhancing user experience based on feedback from stakeholders.

Reviewing the progress of the platform with officials concerned in Bengaluru, the Minister said that 1,52,863 applications have been received across the State so far, of which 1,33,803 applications have been successfully processed. He noted that 76,093 applications have been received under the newly introduced Form 11B, which are currently at various stages of approval.

"We have carefully reviewed feedback from citizens and local bodies and taken concrete steps to resolve key technical challenges in e-Swathu 2.0. Our focus is to make the platform more seamless, transparent and citizen-friendly, while ensuring faster disposal of applications," Mr. Kharge said.

The Minister said the government will soon enable modifications to newly approved properties and integrate guideline values from the Stamps and Registration Department into the platform. He also stated that any remaining minor technical glitches will be addressed on priority.

According to an official release, district-wise helpline numbers are available under the 'Contact Us' section on https://eswathu.karnataka.gov.in and https://panchatantra.karnataka.gov.in, and citizens can also reach out via the helpline on Ph: 9483476000.

Key improvements to e-Swathu 2.0

- Enabling conversion of Form 11B accounts to Form 11A at the gram panchayat level
- Allowing submission of applications for new multi-storey (apartments) properties at the gram panchayat level
- Introducing automatic conversion of land measurements (gunta and cents) into square metres
- Resolving issues related to submission of encumbrance certificates (ECs)
- Fixing errors encountered while saving applications
- Enabling smooth download of e-Khata documents
- Addressing integration issues with electricity supply companies
- Fixing login and approval-related issues faced by gram panchayat users

Congress and CPI(M) question delay in poll data publication

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The total voter turnout in the Assembly elections in Kerala went up to 79.63% after the postal votes were factored in, Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar has said.

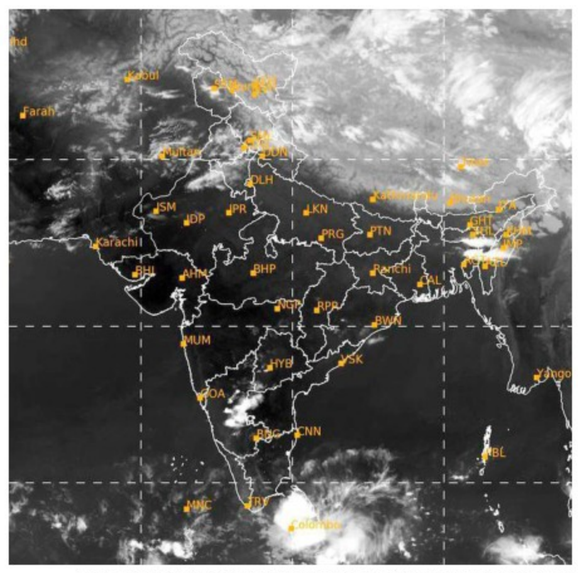
He said these were provisional numbers with service votes yet to be added and the number of service votes out of a total of 53,984 such voters will be known only on counting day.

Mr. Kelkar also rejected allegations of undue delay in the publication of the complete poll data. Earlier in the day, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan (Congress) and V. Sivankutty, General Education Minister and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] leader, had said a delay of over three days in publishing the final and complete poll data by the Election Commission of India (EC) was quite unusual.

Mr. Satheesan pointed out that though it has been three days since the conclusion of the polls, the detailed and authenticated figures are yet to be made available on the Commission's official website.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Karnataka and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	25.4	Kozhikode	—	36.9	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	41.0	23.5	Kurnool	—	42.8	30.0
Aizawl	—	33.0	18.0	Lucknow	—	36.1	18.6
Allahabad	—	39.0	24.4	Madurai	—	36.3	26.1
Bengaluru	—	35.6	24.2	Mangaluru	—	34.0	26.8
Bhopal	—	38.8	22.0	Mumbai	—	32.8	24.5
Bhubaneswar	—	35.3	26.5	Mysuru	—	37.0	20.8
Chandigarh	—	33.9	15.2	New Delhi	—	36.1	17.7
Chennai	—	36.7	27.0	Patna	—	37.3	24.4
Coimbatore	—	38.6	25.2	Port Blair	—	32.5	26.8
Dehradun	—	32.9	16.3	Puducherry	—	34.9	26.4
Gangtok	24	19.2	11.2	Pune	—	40.9	24.6
Goa	—	34.0	26.5	Raipur	—	40.6	25.8
Guwahati	—	29.5	19.7	Ranchi	—	35.6	20.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	23.0	Shillong	—	23.0	15.0
Hyderabad	—	40.1	26.9	Shimla	—	23.4	12.2
Imphal	—	28.4	19.4	Srinagar	—	23.4	5.6
Jaipur	—	37.0	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.3	25.9
Kochi	—	33.4	28.6	Tiruchi	—	37.9	25.4
Kohima	—	22.9	13.1	Vijayawada	—	38.5	25.2
Kolkata	—	37.1	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.7	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.62	..87	27	 78	...106	
Bengaluru	.22	..19	26	 90	...114	
Chennai	.13	8	44	 19	34	
Delhi	.36	..88	35	... 170	...288	
Hyderabad	.17	..14	38	 72	91	
Kolkata	...8	..50	36	 65	73	
Lucknow	.11	..45	37	... 147	...110	
Mumbai	...2	..14	62	 78	...156	
Pune	..—	..35	43	 86	...108	
Visakhapatnam	.40	..51	10	 37	...115	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 238 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (CABINET.II) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

No.3116751, Dated. 13.04.2026

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of: **Secretary to Government, Department of Science, Technology & Innovation.** The post shall be filled by a **Non-Cadre Domain Expert on contract basis. Last date for submission of applications: Within 10 days from publication of this advertisement.** Detailed notification, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and application format are available at: **gad.ap.gov.in**.

DIPR 20111/CL, Dt.13.04.2026 **Sd/- Principal Secretary to Government (Poll)**

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.06/183 Date: 13-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Firm / Agency, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the Work of **Supplying, Installing and Commissioning of Tubular Type and Sealed Maintenance Free Batteries of Various Capacity Batteries 12 Volts 150, 120, 100, 60, 42 and 26 AH Batteries for UPS Installed at VTU, Regional Centre, Kalaburagi and VTU, Belagavi. Amounting to Rs. 1,17,17,418/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 13-04-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/93/Adverto/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences
Autonomous Medical Education Institute, Sagar Road, Shivamogga 577201.
Website: www.sims-shimoga.com,
Ph: 08182-229933 /269701 Fax no.: 08182 264100
No: SIMS/Store/Tender/Notification/7/2026-2767
Date: 13-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Sl.No. 1. Tender No. & Date: SIMS/PRCU/TNDR/15/2026-PSTR-SIMS-SMG Dated: 13.04.2026 **Name of the Item:** e-Tender for the supply HNS (Chemical & Reagents) to Dept of Dialysis at Sims Teaching Mc-gann, Hospital Shivamogga **Publish, Duration, End, Date and time.:** From: 15.04.2026 to 30.04.2026 at 5.00 PM.

Sl.No. 2. Tender No. & Date: SIMS/PRCU/TNDR/16/2025-PSTR-SIMS-SMG/call-2 Dated: 13.04.2026 **Name of the Item:** Re-Tender for the supply HNS (Single Bid & Not Quoted) IV Contrast, X-ray film & Other Items Sims Teaching Mc-gann, Hospital Shivamogga **Publish, Duration, End, Date and time.:** From: 15.04.2026 to 30.04.2026 at 5.00 PM.

Opening of all above Tenders can be abtained e-Procurement from the tendering website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further Bidders can take assistance with e-Procurement help desk at 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Director/Dean, Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/26-27/81/04/88

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Fax: 080-29533673, Phone No: 080-29533679
Email : kswc.eng@gmail.com

'E' TENDER NOTIFICATION

No: KSWC/ENG/18/F-03/2026-27 Date: 13.04.2026

1. The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore invites e-tender for Selection of Development & Implementation of Cold Storage Projects at 19 Centres in Karnataka on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Mode of PPP. Tender form may be downloaded from https: kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
2. Prescribed EMD should be paid through online while submitting the tender.

Name of the work: 1) Cluster 1 Comprising the locations of Byadgi, Haveri, Ballari, Karatagi, Gangavathi, Hiriyuru and Hospet in Karnataka. **Amount put to Tender :** Rs.103.33 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.51,66,500/-. 2) Cluster 2 Comprising the locations of Shikaripura, Sagara, Akki Aluru, Hirekerur, Kundgol and Channapatna in Karnataka. **Amount put to Tender :** Rs.70.94 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.35,47,000/-. 3) Cluster 3 Comprising the locations of Badami, Jamkhandi, Sindagi, Indi, Sedam and Shahabad in Karnataka. **Amount put to Tender :** Rs.64.81 Crores. **EMD :** Rs.32,40,500/-.

3. E-Tendering should be submitted in two cover system containing "Technical Bid and Financial Bid". Financial bids of the bidder those who qualify in Technical bid will be opened.

CALENEDR OF EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1.	Pre Bid meeting	28.04.2026 at 15.00 Hours
2.	Date of uploading Queries Clarifications	04.05.2026 up to 17.00 Hours
3.	Last date for receipt of Tender	04.06.2026 up to 17.30 Hours
4.	Opening of Technical Bid	08.06.2026 up to 15.00 Hours
5.	Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated to the Qualified Bidders

4. The responses prepared by the Bidder and all correspondence and documents relating to the bids exchanged by the Bidder/ Developer will be in English.
5. Managing Director reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information at Employer's address indicated in the invitation of tender during office hours.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIPR/CP/175/AKAR/2026-27

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101
e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com
website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W. 4 Short Term Tender Notification No: 03/2026-27 Dt. 10.04.2026.

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of Kolar, KGF & Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 5054-SH Road, 5054-MDR Road & 5054-KRDCL Bridge** Estimate cost : Minimum: Rs.150.00 Lakhs Maximum: Rs.750.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: mentioned in KPP Portal, Period for completion of work: 06-09 months. Contractors may download the tender documents KW- 4 from Karnataka State Procurement portal **(viz., htpp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall be uploaded on or before 16.00 hours. on 18.04.2026 through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tenders received will be opened after 11.30 hours on 21.04.2026 in KPP portal. Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:23/KSMCA/2026-27

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JV Company of KPCL & BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

SHORT TERM AUCTION NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)
RPCL invites bids through KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under **"Auction"** catogery from the reputed bidders for the following work. **E-Auction Notice No.: KPCL/2026-27/AUCTION138,** Sale of Mill Reject Waste Cost (MRWC)for a Period of Two years Excluding Monsoon Period. Quantity of Mill Reject Waste Coal put to Auction: 1,11,000MT(While 10% reserved for SSI units. Amount Put to Auction: **8,80,23,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 13,20,345/-.** Last date for submission: **16.04.2026.** Any further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (M-2), RPCL, Mobile: +91 8277502840, e-mail: eechpmytpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in / eechprpcl@gmail.com.**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

1. KPCL/2026-27/IND2575, Date:09.04.2026, Procurement of high strength bleaching powder. **2. KPCL/2026-27/IND2574, Date: 09.04.2026,** Procurement of 2 items of 16 sets each of Grinding Rollers for HP-1103 Bowl Mills of YTPS on Annual Rate Contract basis for a period of two year. **3. KPCL/2026-27/IND2527/CALL-2, Date: 04.04.2026,** Procurement of Bimetallic lugs and glands. **4. KPCL/2026-27/IND2569, Date: 01.04.2026,** Procurement of butterfly valves for YTPS. **5. KPCL/2026-27/IND2305/CALL-2, Date: 07.04.2026,** Procurement of 800NB MS ERW pipes & bends for YTPS. Last date & time for bids submission: For Sl No 1: **17.04.2026,11:30Hrs.** For Sl. No. 2: **10.05.2026,16:00Hrs.** For Sl. No. 3,4 & 5: **15.04.2026,16:00Hrs.**
Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP), RPCL, YTPS, Yeramarus - 584134, Raichur District,** Mobile: **99455 32392,** e-mail: **eemsprpcl@gmail.com**.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1. KPCL/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT4101, Date: 11.04.2026, RPCL-2x800MW YTPS- Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning including onsite product training of Capacitance, Power & dissipation factor measurement kit(Tan Delta Kit) at YTPS. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 35,10,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 80,200/-.** Contract period: **6 Months from the date of issue of Work order.** Last date of receipt of tender: **25.04.2026 @ 16:30Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (E-1), RPCL, YTPS, Yeramarus - 584134, Raichur District,** Mobile: **94806 82551,** e-mail: **eee1ytps@gmail.com**, Website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in.**

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore - 560 072. India

ISEC invites Short Tem Tender from reputed authorised vendors for supply of Laptop Computers. For More details visit our website: **www.isec.ac.in.** Last date for submitting the tender is **28th April 2026**

DIPR/CP/171/Shirdi Sai/2026-27 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

Karnataka Public works Department.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,
No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE.3/T.No.05/2026-27 Dt: 09.04.2026

Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW-4
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 5054 KRDCL Bridge Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The dates are published as below.

(Amount Put to Tender Rs.160.36 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.240545/-)

1. Last date for tender information enqueries : 23-04-2026 :17.00. 2. Last date for submission of tender: 24-04-2026 : 16.00 3. Date of opening the Technical bid: 27-04-2026 : 11.00. 4. Date of opening the Financial bid: 28-04-2026 : 17.00. Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after Changes with Refference to This Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

DIPR/TUM/20/KSMCA/2026-27

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜೆ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 570005,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821–2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಅ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/21/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಒಟ್ಟು 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 06 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 01.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 15.04.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 16.04.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821–2420624 ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mudamysore.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಬದಲಾಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತೆ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

DIPR/DDMYS/48/KSMCA/42/2026-27

Hungary for change

Magyar's win may reverse hard-right domestic and foreign policies

The voter's verdict in Hungary, that ousted Victor Orban, Hungary's Christian-nationalist, populist and hard-right Prime Minister with a record 20 years in power (1998-2002 and 2010-2026) and four previous consecutive electoral wins, is unambiguous. According to the latest results, opposition leader Peter Magyar's Tisza party has won about 138 seats, to Mr. Orban's Fidesz party's 55. The massive two-thirds majority in the Hungarian parliament is enough to help Mr. Magyar overturn many of the Orban-era shifts on education and health, judicial independence, and the controversial NER (Nemzeti Együttműködés Rendszere) or National Cooperation System that the opposition said had led to an economic downturn, widespread corruption and crony capitalism, as well as an anti-European Union stance. Mr. Magyar, who was a Fidesz party leader until just two years ago when he quit the ruling party in protest of its policies and set up his own political movement, is unlikely to reverse Mr. Orban's anti-immigrant policies, however. Ahead of the polls, Victor Orban was endorsed by three powerful leaders, all seen as aggressors in recent conflicts – U.S. President Donald Trump, who even sent Vice-President J.D. Vance to address a public rally with Mr. Orban in Budapest last week; Russian President Vladimir Putin; and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom Mr. Orban supported unequivocally. Hungary actually quit the International Criminal Court after it issued a warrant against the Israeli Prime Minister for war crimes. It remains to be seen whether post-Orban Hungary turns its course on the wars in Iran, Ukraine or Gaza.

Most significantly for the world, that saw the rise of many populist leaders through elections in the 2010s, Hungary's election verdict denotes that voters worldwide may be tiring of the hard-right, anti-pluralistic, anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric they favoured. Similar outcomes have been seen in elections in Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, the U.K. and Poland. Such trends also provide a check to the authoritarian single-party rule that a whole range of leaders have tried to implement using illiberal policies, politically motivated cases against the opposition, the denigration of democratic institutions and a clampdown on free speech. Mr. Magyar has his work cut out if he aims to reverse these policies in Hungary. The real test of a democratic leader is not just winning elections, but in pursuing inclusive policies, representational of the entire population and providing accountability for their actions, long after forming the government.

Parched again

Bengaluru is treating water supply as infinitely expandable

While Karnataka as a whole is improving its water security, Bengaluru is dealing with extreme groundwater withdrawal. The State drew 66% of the groundwater that it could sustainably extract in 2025, but Bengaluru East Taluka drew 378%. The sustainably extractable volume of groundwater is based on how much withdrawal will deplete the aquifer, so while 378% does not mean Bengaluru East has depleted its groundwater, it is reminiscent of an ongoing crisis that has, once again, turned acute. The Bengaluru region lies on crystalline rock that already stores little water and recharges slowly. The city further concentrates demand in areas with higher population density and per-capita consumption, including 'tech parks' and apartment complexes. The built-up area of such urban infrastructure also suppresses recharge by percolating rainwater. A growing fraction of the population depends on water from the Cauvery, which comes with a high expansion cost. Thus, the problem has a natural basis but has been compounded over the years by inconsiderate urbanisation, where the costs – monetary and, increasingly, existential – are being passed on to the populace.

In 2024, a weak monsoon left nearly half of Bengaluru's 14,000 borewells dry. The government launched a project to supply 775 million litres per day to 110 villages and lower groundwater stress. But to date, the project has achieved only midway coverage, leaving many residents still banking on tankers. A 2026 study found that the crisis has since moved to Koramangala and Hebbal. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has also been using treated sewage water to recharge lakes. It seems Bengaluru is treating supply as infinitely expandable when it is not. Its preference for grey over green infrastructure has sealed the ground against replenishment while the increasing demand liquidates ecological capital. The city does not manage its pipeline supply, groundwater, and wastewater together, allowing consumers to default to the most convenient solution: tankers. Authorities need to minimise distribution losses and penalise overextraction and mandate 100% decentralised wastewater recycling for all non-potable uses. The ideal long-term solution remains unchanged: Bengaluru needs to become a 'sponge city'. This includes restoring the connections between lakes and wells to capture monsoon runoff, thus aligning land-use planning with the recharge capacity of each taluka, and overall sealing the ground less and increasing absorption on the surface.

The fallout of the crisis in West Asia on India's economy

C. Rangarajan
Former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D. K. Srivastava
Former Director, Madras School of Economics

While the Russia-Ukraine war shows no sign of abatement, another major crisis in West Asia has hit the global economy. This war has disrupted production, storage, and transport of various energy products including crude oil, natural gas and fertilizers, and has led to supply disruptions and increase in sectoral prices. There is a serious, although partial, blockade of the Strait of Hormuz thereby restricting the passage of crude oil, gas and other petroleum products as well as other goods. Even if matters get resolved in the near future, it may take considerable time for the normalisation of the supply chain. However, even the temporary ceasefire that has been agreed to has brought down the Brent crude oil price from $109.3 per barrel as on April 7 and 8, to about $95.

India has been diversifying its sources of imported crude oil, gas and fertilizers. At present, India is importing crude oil from 41 source countries. In fact, India's dependence on imported crude has been increasing in recent years and it is presently close to 90%.

The relevant crude price index for India is the Indian crude basket comprising Sweet grade (Brent) and Sour grade (Oman and Dubai average), which remains linked to the global crude oil price (average of Brent, WTI and Dubai). Considering the average of March 2026, the Indian crude basket was about 19% higher than the global crude price. The rise in the price of the Indian crude basket in March 2026 was over 64.5% that of February 2026 on average, even though the price increase for end-users were moderated.

With the temporary ceasefire, the Indian basket has come down to $120.28 per barrel on April 9, 2026 from the peak of $157 per barrel on March 23, 2026 – that is by a margin of $37/bbl.

Multiple stressors

The impact on the Indian economy will come through several channels. First is supply disruptions. Supply bottlenecks will affect production processes primarily in energy intensive sectors. However, any disruptions in these sectors would cascade into other sections of the economy, with the affected industries likely being textiles, paints, chemicals, fertilizers, cement and tyres among others. The non-availability of fertilizers and other chemicals particularly would affect the agricultural output in the Kharif season which will start from June.

> The non-availability of fertilizers and other chemicals would affect the agricultural output in the Kharif season which will start from June

Secondly, logistics. Storage and transport are highly energy intensive. Increased logistics costs will lead to the increase in the prices of all final products through cascading.

Third, Indian exports will take a hit from both demand and supply sides. The demand side will be affected not only due to disruptions in West Asia but also due to a slowdown in other countries, including the U.S. and Europe. The share of India's merchandise exports to West Asian countries was 16.4% of total merchandise exports in 2024-25. The depreciation of the rupee, that is already underway, may partially help Indian exporters.

Fourth, exchange rate and remittances will be affected. The Indian rupee has been depreciating in recent months. The rate of depreciation has accelerated after the start of the West Asian crisis. As global crude prices, and the prices of fertilizers and other energy products also increase, there would be an additional demand for the dollar and other hard currencies; the exchange rate will be under pressure. Moreover, India receives a considerable number of remittances from Indians employed in the Gulf countries. These remittances are bound to go down, adding further pressure on the exchange rate. However, any improvement in the overall environment may lift the rupee.

In fact, the sharp decline in the value of the rupee has been caused mainly by the substantial capital outflows triggered by uncertainty and fear. When the war ends, the value of the rupee will also rise. The net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) outflows in March 2026 amounted to $13.6 billion, which is huge.

Fifth, is the current account deficit. The fall in the volume of Indian exports is expected to be accompanied by an increase in the value of Indian imports leading to an increase in the current account deficit, if the war continues. Sixth is rising inflation. Cost push inflation would affect relative prices in sectors that are directly affected such as petroleum products, fertilizers etc. However, if liquidity also increases, there would be pressure on overall inflation. The country needs to avoid any large liquidity increases.

And finally is the fiscal deficit problem. The Government of India may have to provide additional subsidies to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as it insists on keeping retail prices at present levels. While to some extent, the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel would reduce losses for the OMCs, it would be a direct revenue loss to the Indian government. If real GDP growth goes down and profit margins fall for major producers, there will be an adverse impact on the government's tax revenues. State finances will also be affected due to lower economic activity. Their share in tax devolution would be adversely affected if the Central government's tax revenues go down. States may also face pressure to reduce sales tax/VAT on petroleum products. In fact, the government must rethink the reduction in excise duty on petroleum products. The present move is due to the ongoing State elections. After that, the retail prices should go up, if the war resumes. In that situation, the higher price may constrain demand which is desirable.

Myriad policy responses

As per information shared by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chairman on March 27, the fortnightly loss on account of lower excise duties on petrol and diesel will be ₹7,000 crore whereas there would be a gain of ₹1,500 crore per fortnight on account of export tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel. This implies a net loss of ₹5,500 crore per fortnight, translating into an annual loss in tax revenue of about ₹1,32,000 crore for the government, should the crisis continue for the full year.

In all likelihood, food, fertilizers and petroleum subsidies would be higher than their budget estimates for 2026-27. As already mentioned, retail prices must be allowed to go up so long as crude prices remain high.

Although it is difficult to estimate the quantitative impact of the current crisis, some impacts were given by the RBI in its October 2025 Monetary Policy Report. In their estimates, for every 10% increase in the price of the Indian crude basket from a baseline of $70 per barrel, that is an increase of $7 per barrel, real GDP growth may fall by around 15 basis points. Further, assuming full pass-through to domestic product prices, inflation would be higher by 30 basis points.

As on April 9, 2026, the price of the Indian crude basket at $120.28 per barrel has exceeded the baseline by about $50 per barrel. If this margin of increase becomes applicable for the whole year, real GDP growth may fall from baseline estimates by 1 percentage point and inflation may increase by more than 2 percentage points. While these effects would be lower if the crisis gets resolved quickly, much depends upon when true peace will dawn.

Views expressed are personal.

Reclaiming Ambedkar for a modern Andhra Pradesh

Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

History has a tendency to reduce towering figures into narrow symbols. B. R. Ambedkar has often been confined to the role of a sectional *Neta*, when in truth he was the principal architect of modern India's moral and constitutional imagination. To remember him is not to ritualise his legacy, but to apply it.

Ambedkar warned us that while equality may be aspirational, it must nonetheless guide governance. The test of that principle lies not in rhetoric, but in whether the State actively dismantles structural inequality. In Andhra Pradesh, this meant reimagining public education, healthcare, and governance not as welfare, but as instruments of dignity.

Improving access

For decades, government schools stood as quiet markers of neglect. By upgrading infrastructure and introducing English as a medium of instruction, the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) government sought to break both material and linguistic barriers that historically limited social mobility through its flagship program, Nadu-Nedu. Access to education is not merely about enrolment; it is about ensuring that every child learns in an environment that affirms their worth, and where quality education is not confined to private schools. The same logic applies to public health. Ambedkar understood that dignity is impossible without physical security. A single medical emergency should not have the power to push a family into generational poverty. The YSRCP government provided expanding access to healthcare and strengthened State responsibility as essential steps towards ensuring that vulnerability would not define destiny.

The establishment of Grama Sachivalayas in every village, and the mapping of 50 to 60 households to a volunteer delivering various government services at the doorsteps of citizens, reflects the true essence of Grama Swaraj.

Moreover, Ambedkar's contribution to women's rights remains underappreciated. His resignation over the stalled Hindu Code Bill was not a political manoeuvre; it was a moral stand for gender equality. Policies framed by the YSRCP government placed financial resources directly in the hands of women through Direct Benefit Transfers in recognition of the foundational truth that social justice is incomplete without economic agency. When mothers are empowered, the benefits extend far beyond the household, reshaping the trajectory of entire communities. The 50% reservation for women in local bodies, nominated posts, and work contracts paved the way for equality and self-reliance.

Taking inspiration from Babasaheb's words that small farmers must not be left to the mercy of moneylenders, the YSRCP government greatly strengthened the rural economy with the slogan "seed to sale." The Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) in every village provides services such as e-crop booking, free crop insurance, farm mechanisation, assured remunerative prices, and timely input subsidies, with special focus on tenant farmers. Scheduled Tribe farmers were granted RoFR pattas, giving them access to all government benefits.

The importance of remembrance

Commemoration, too, must move beyond symbolism. Public memory requires visibility. Establishing a major memorial to Ambedkar – a 206-foot 'Statue of Social Justice' at the Ambedkar Smriti Vanam in Vijayawada – during the YSRCP government's tenure was not simply about honouring a leader, it was about embedding his ideas into the physical and cultural landscape of the State. The decision to rename a district after him, however, met with violent resistance from some sections of the remnant feudal elements in society, including attacks on the homes of YSRCP party leaders and former ministers. It reflected a deeper shift: the assertion that social justice must occupy not just discourse, but geography.

> Ambedkar's life was defined by persistence in the face of resistance. Efforts to expand inclusion will always encounter those invested in preserving the status quo

Ambedkar was also a sharp critic of the social stagnation embedded in traditional village structures. He saw industrialisation and economic mobility as pathways out of entrenched hierarchies. For a State like Andhra Pradesh, which boasts a 1,053 km coastline, this insight has contemporary relevance. The YSRCP government's efforts to develop ports, fishing harbours, fish landing centres, and logistics infrastructure were not merely an economic strategy; they were a means of expanding economic opportunity and connecting people to a wider world.

Anchored in institutions

At the same time, Ambedkar's enduring warning about constitutional morality cannot be ignored. Governance must be anchored in institutions, not personalities; in law, not vendetta. Any drift towards the selective application of justice or the targeting of dissent weakens the very foundation he helped build. The Constitution is not just a legal document, it is a moral commitment to fairness, restraint, and accountability; one that no "Red Book" should ever replace. The Constitution must remain the only sacrosanct principle for governing a State.

Ambedkar's life was defined by persistence in the face of resistance. Efforts to expand inclusion will always encounter those invested in preserving the status quo. Yet retreat is not an option. The responsibility of governance is to continue converting public policy into pathways of opportunity, especially for those historically left behind. Following Babasaheb in letter and spirit, the YSRCP government supported extending coverage under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order to Dalits irrespective of the religion they choose.

To reclaim Ambedkar is to recognise that social justice is not a finished project. It is an ongoing endeavour which is demanding, imperfect, and necessary. The measure of our commitment lies not in how often we invoke his name, but in how consistently we advance his vision.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop the blockade

The Strait of Hormuz — a waterway expressly protected under UNCLOS Articles 37 to 44 as a transit passage open to all nations — is today being conscripted into a war it did not occasion. Reports of prospective toll regimes and access controls over this chokepoint, through which over millions of barrels of oil pass daily, amount to a flagrant violation of international maritime law. Equally alarming is the silence of the UN Security Council and member states. If this precedent holds, the Strait of Malacca and other critical choke points may follow. Impunity, once established, is rarely contained.

Gopalaswamy J.
Chennai

End of an era

The passing of Asha Bhosle marks the end of an era in Indian music. For nearly eight decades, her versatile voice captivated audiences across generations. From lively numbers to soulful melodies, she brought unmatched expression to every song. Her collaborations with R. D. Burman created timeless classics that remain unforgettable.

Asha Bhosle's ability to reinvent herself while staying true to her artistry made her truly exceptional. Though she is no longer with us, her songs will continue to inspire and comfort millions. Her legacy will forever remain a vital part of our cultural heritage.

Nagarajamani M.V.
Telangana

Time to step up

Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians are facing significant challenges in season 2026, stuck at the 8th place with three losses in four matches. MI's bowling unit has been ineffective, and even Jasprit Bumrah has surprisingly gone without wickets so far — a rare scenario for the world's best pacer in all formats of the game. The batting unit has also struggled to chase down high targets, often relying too heavily on individual knocks.

With high-scoring contests becoming increasingly common this season, Mumbai Indians will need to quickly address both batting and bowling issues, especially during Powerplay, if they are to halt their losing streak and get back on track like they did in IPL 2025.

R. Sivakumar
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Onus on SC to protect faith in democracy

Ashok Lavasa

Former Election Commissioner and Union Finance Secretary of India

The Ides of March and April being the "cruellest month" dominated the world stage recently. "Ides" (from Latin *idus*) marked the approximate midpoint of Roman months. On March 15, 44 BCE, a few Roman senators stabbed Julius Caesar, a scene immortalised by William Shakespeare in *Julius Caesar*, where a soothsayer warns Caesar about his death "*beware the Ides of March*". In *The Waste Land,* T.S. Elliot called April "the cruellest month".

Throughout these past few weeks, we saw "broken images" caused by the violence unleashed in March continuing in early April. Thousands perished in an insane man-made disaster. Fortunately, the boxers are in the white corner of the ring for the time being.

A few thousand kilometres from Delhi, in West Asia, the world saw an audacious attempt by a 250-year-old democracy (the U.S.) to "restore democracy" in a civilization spanning nearly 40 centuries (Iran).

A few hundred kilometres east of Delhi, a different kind of battle of democracy raged, where people tried to save their right to vote, not from a distant aggressor but from an unprecedented aggression of the Election Commission of India.

The tragic irony is that this institution was created by the Constitution to protect the same right it conferred on every citizen. That is how Indian electoral democracy was conceived. The vision of the founding fathers was painstakingly and honestly turned into a collective dream since 1950 when India pledged itself to being a Republic launching one of the most audacious attempts at enfranchising an illiterate mass of humanity.

Many were apprehensive of the capability of the unlettered to use this right rationally, but few doubted the ability and intent of those responsible for protecting that right. And yet today, seeing the way in which millions find their voting right being "snatched" just as they prepared to cast their vote, raises uncomfortable questions regarding the guardian institutions.

In undertaking the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the ECI claimed a noble intent – "purging" the billion strong Indian electoral roll. This 'ambition' led to the innovative methodology of the SIR. It singled out West Bengal to apply the freshly-sharpened scythe of "logical discrepancy", which identified six million voters for 'special treatment'. The 'last twist of the knife' was that this was with the consent of the Supreme Court (SC), the most venerable and dependable last resort of the aggrieved. The cruelty is that the SC seems to not mind that the 2.7 million 'deleted' electors remained in a state of 'suspended animation'. In effect, the sentence is "to be hanged by the neck". Whether it is "till death" will be decided by the appellate tribunals set up under its aegis.

Let us make no mistake. The outcome of the West Bengal elections cannot determine the fairness of this procedure adopted by the ECI. Even if the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the party that cries 'foul' most loudly, wins the elections, the 'abduction' of the voting right of those denied a chance to establish the genuineness of their contention cannot be overlooked. They were left stranded by a half-baked process, maimed by the weapon of "logical discrepancy", and undone by the apathy of the protector institutions they trusted. The apathy of one of them was evident in the 'ultimatum to TMC tweet', showing the yellow card before any foul was committed.

Last year, during the Bihar SIR hearing, the SC asserted that it would not allow mass deletions. Apparently, the scale of deletions in West Bengal has not dismayed the SC whereas even one elector deprived unfairly should be enough to upset the court. For the ECI, it would be a matter of shame if its famous clarion call of "no voter to be left behind" hereafter sounds like a hollow slogan.

Instead of creating a conducive environment encouraging citizens to become electors, ECI actually devised hurdles that many found impossible to cross. Instead of pursuing its motto "every vote matters", ECI created a situation that risks making people apathetic towards the process. Hitherto, it focused all its energy on increasing poll percentage, which in General Elections have never exceeded 68%. Now, its success might owe to lowering the denominator due to the large-scale deletions.

Voting is not just a public service everyone should be able to access with equal ease. It is a right guaranteed by the Constitution; a democratic duty every citizen is obliged to perform. That is the primary responsibility of the ECI, which like Hamlet sees the ghost of an intruder in every Bengali-speaking Muslim and is attempting to do what the State was obliged to but could not.

It is this obsession to 'purge' the electoral roll that has brought the ECI dangerously close to the sin of democide. Every genuine citizen pushed into limbo is entitled to feel that for him electoral democracy is dead and that for him the festival became a funeral because his grave was dug by the institutions meant to take him to the promised land.

Courts can punish illegalities, not sins. A sin only has consequences. It could keep nibbling at your conscience, if you have one. It will sully your reputation, if you care for it. But the most dangerous is if people stop believing in fairness, if people lose hope in the guardians of their rights, if they reconcile to injustice being their collective destiny.

The Supreme Court still has a chance to prevent a sin of commission and redeem the constitutional right of those who had originally passed the test of ECI's due process, successfully navigated the eddies of the SIR, only to be caught in a procedural whirlpool as they seemed ashore.

ECI devised hurdles that many found impossible to cross and created a situation that risks making people apathetic towards the process

A flawed beginning and lack of cohesion

After tense seat-sharing talks, Congress is lethargic in campaigning for T.N. polls

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

"Muthal Konal Muttrilum Konal," a Tamil proverb, roughly translates to "a flawed beginning leads inevitably to a flawed end." Few phrases capture more effectively the seat-sharing arrangement between the DMK and the Congress in Tamil Nadu. Even as the election campaign gathers momentum and DMK leader-cum-Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has already completed many rounds of tour across the State, the Congress high command in Delhi appears to show little interest in an election in which its political stakes are considerable. It looks as if the party has given up on Tamil Nadu. Party leader Rahul Gandhi has yet to visit the State and, more importantly, has not shared a dais with Mr. Stalin – an absence that raises questions about the cohesion of the alliance.

The attitude of the Congress high command has caused considerable anxiety among local leaders and cadres alike. Mr. Gandhi, who visited Puducherry, campaigned separately for Congress candidates, raising questions about coordination between the two parties. Even after an agreement was reached–allocating 16 seats to the Congress and 13 to the DMK–six rebel Congress candidates filed nominations. Instead of persuading them to withdraw, Mr. Gandhi met five of them and posed for photographs with them at the airport. This incident has caused enormous heartburn in the DMK camp, which has taken on much of the burden of campaigning for Congress candidates in Tamil Nadu.

DMK leaders are at their wits' end trying to understand the behaviour of Congress leaders, particularly Mr. Gandhi, despite the unwavering support extended by Mr. Stalin to the party and Mr. Gandhi's leadership. Even at a point where the alliance seemed untenable, Mr. Stalin agreed to allot 28 seats along with a Rajya Sabha Sabha ticket. A section of Congress leaders had already escalated tensions by upping the ante overnight, deepening the rift between the two parties. Yet, at no point did Mr. Gandhi reach out to the DMK leadership to restore normalcy.

The alliance was saved from the brink of collapse through the intervention of senior leaders P. Chidambaram, Mallikarjun Kharge, and DMK Parliamentary Party leader Kanimozhi.

A section of Congress leaders favoured an alliance with actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Their calculation appears to be that it would offer them a greater number of seats to contest. The Congress has, in the past, exerted pressure on the DMK to concede more seats. In 2011, the party raised its demand to 90 seats before eventually settling for 64. This hard bargaining prompted the then leader M. Karunanidhi to wonder whether it was ethical for an alliance partner to push an ally into a corner.

What Congress leaders seem not to have realised is that the strength of a party in alliance negotiations depends largely on the robustness of its organisational base. The party's activities and work to build the organisation are scarcely visible beyond pockets of influence such as Kanniyakumari district. Even in the Assembly, it often functions as an appendage of the DMK, effusive in its praise for the Chief Minister and the government.

They also appear to overlook an important lesson from the past. In the 1996 elections, the DMK allotted 20 Lok Sabha seats and 40 Assembly seats to the Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC), a breakaway Congress faction led by the late G.K. Moopanar, owing to the strong wave in its favour at the time. Yet, that momentum dissipated within a few years, and the TMC eventually found itself aligning with the AIADMK–the very party whose earlier alliance with the Congress had led to its formation. It is the Congress gene that caused the fall.

At moments when their alliance was on the verge of collapse, a key question persisted: how would the Congress perform effectively in Parliament without the support of the DMK, which has considerable strength in the House? This uncertainty also raises questions about the party's strategy for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The leadership may believe that Mr. Vijay represents a force for change and that aligning with him could prove advantageous. This, however, amounts to little more than pressing its luck. Whatever the outcome of the 2026 polls, the DMK may not mind parting ways with the Congress, having already identified alternative allies to compensate for its absence.

Development in West Bengal leaves much to be desired

Economic indicators lag, with low incomes and weak rural wages dragging down overall development in the poll-bound State; health indicators fare better

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

An indicator-based analysis for the poll-bound West Bengal reveals that the State lags in several economic and social indicators. While it shows strength in select indicators such as immunisation and elementary enrolment, the State's performance across various indicators remained relatively poorer compared to national average.

West Bengal's Human Development Index (HDI) stood at 0.719 in 2023, below the national average of 0.732. Economic indicators show a similar trend. The State ranked 16th out of 23 in per capita net domestic product, with an average of ₹1.63 lakh, far lower than the national average of ₹2.05 lakh and substantially behind Delhi and Telangana, where per capita incomes are more than double that of West Bengal. Rural wage levels also lag, with an average daily wage of ₹347 compared to ₹398 nationally. **(Table 1)**

However, the State fares relatively better on some health measures. Infant mortality rate stands at 17, lower than India's 25, with the State ranking 14th out of 30. The share of households relying on unimproved sanitation facilities is smaller compared to the national average. While the proportion of stunted children (34%) is marginally lower than the national average, the State ranks 19th out of 29, indicating that undernutrition remains a concern. Immunisation coverage is among the strongest in the country, with 88% of children receiving all basic vaccinations, placing the State 4th.

However, these gains coexist with significant concerns. The share of women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing is 16%, more than double the national average. Maternal mortality, at 103 per one lakh live births, is above the national average of 97. With 83.4% of women using hygienic menstrual protection, the State falls behind regions such as Delhi and Tamil Nadu. Only about a third of households have at least one member covered by a health scheme. **(Table 2)**

Education indicators too present a mixed picture **(Table 3)**. The State records a perfect adjusted net enrolment rate of 100% at the elementary level, along with many other States. However, retention remains a concern, with an average annual dropout rate of 18% at the secondary level. Gross enrolment ratio in higher secondary education is 62%, slightly above the national average. Gender parity in higher education remains relatively balanced.

The share of men who lack schooling is much higher than the national average while fewer women lack schooling, but the gap with top performing States remains wide. Total fertility rate is also below the national average.

With 13% of the surveyed men aged 15-49 doing no schooling in the State, it ranks 23rd among 29 States. This is higher than the national average of 10.7%. The same indicator for women, however, pushes the State's rank to 16. Also, the share of women in West Bengal who have done no schooling is 18.5%, much lower than the national average of 22.6%.

The State's performance is patchy in select infrastructure and environmental related indicators **(Table 4)**. Per capita fossil fuel consumption is lower than the national average, though this likely reflects differences in economic structure rather than greater efficiency. Plastic waste generation is higher than the national average, with the State ranking 8th out of 23. Rural internet penetration remains limited at just 35 per 100 people. At the same time, urban housing conditions are somewhat better, with only 0.8% of households living in kachha houses.

(Inputs from Nitika Francis and Sambavi Parthasarathy)

State of West Bengal

The data for the tables have been sourced from the National Family Health Survey (2021-22), NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2023-24), Global Data Lab, Economic Survey 2024-25, Parliament question/answers and Sample registration system report 2023

TABLE 1: West Bengal's values and ranks in terms of human development and economic indicators

Indicator	W.B. value	W.B.'s rank	India average	Top 3 States/UTs
Human Development Index (2023)	0.719	21 out of 29	0.732	Goa (0.862), Kerala (0.860), Delhi (0.837)
Per capita net domestic product (₹)	1,63,467	16 out of 23	2,05,324	Delhi (4,93,024), Telangana (3,87,623), Karnataka (3,80,906)
Average daily wage rates in rural areas (₹)	347.2	14 out of 18	398	Kerala (868.7), Tamil Nadu (573.2), Himachal Pradesh (516)

TABLE 2: West Bengal's values and ranks across various health-related indicators

Indicator	W.B. value	W.B.'s rank	India average	Top 3 States/UTs
Share of women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing (%)	16	28 out of 29	6.8	Uttarakhand (2.4), Kerala (2.4), Goa (2.7)
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)	17	14 out of 30	25	Manipur (3), Kerala (5), Sikkim (6)
Share of population with unimproved sanitation facility (%)	11.9	17 out of 29	19.3	Mizoram (0.1), Kerala (0.2), Sikkim (0.3)
Share of children aged 0-5 years whose growth is stunted (%)	34	19 out of 29	36	Sikkim (22), Kerala (23), Manipur (23)
Percentage of children with all basic vaccinations (%)	88	4 out of 29	77	Odisha (91), Tamil Nadu (89), Himachal Pradesh (89)
Women using a hygienic method of menstrual protection (%)	83.4	17 out of 29	77.6	Tamil Nadu (98.4), Delhi (97.1), Goa (96.8)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 1,00,000 live births)	103	9 out of 19	97	Kerala (19), Maharashtra (33), Telangana (43)
Households with at least one member covered by a health scheme (%)	33.7	18 out of 29	41	Rajasthan (87.8), Andhra Pradesh (80.2), Goa (73.1)

TABLE 3: West Bengal's values and ranks across various education-related indicators

Indicator	W.B. value	W.B.'s rank	India average	Top 3 States/UTs
Share of women (aged 15-49) who have done no schooling (%)	18.5	16 out of 29	22.6	Kerala (0.8), Mizoram (5.3), Goa (5.5)
Share of men (aged 15-49) who have done no schooling (%)	13	23 out of 29	10.7	Kerala (2.3), Goa (3.2), Mizoram (3.4)
Adjusted net enrolment rate (ANER) in elementary education (%)	100	1 out of 29	96.5	Multiple States (100)
Average annual dropout rate at secondary level (class 9-10) (%)	18	25 out of 29	12.6	Manipur (1.3), Himachal Pradesh (1.5), Tamil Nadu (4.5)
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher secondary education (%)	62	15 out of 29	57.6	Delhi (94.9), Himachal Pradesh (94.1), Kerala (85)

TABLE 4: West Bengal's values and ranks across various environmental and infrastructure-related indicators

Indicator	W.B. value	W.B.'s rank	India average	Top 3 States/UTs
Plastic waste generated per 1,000 population (tonnes/annum)	4.27	8 out of 23	3.04	Goa (18.9), Delhi (16.9), Telangana (12.5)
Per capita fossil fuel consumption (in kg)	96.25	17 out of 21	166.43	Haryana (341.9), Gujarat (339.2), Himachal Pradesh (271.7)
Percentage of urban households living in kachha houses (%)	0.8	13 out of 29	0.9	Kerala (0), Haryana (0.2), Maharashtra (0.2)
Internet subscribers per 100 population in rural areas	35	27 out of 28	38.33	Goa (174.98), Kerala (160.19), Sikkim (104.35)

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 14, 1976

Syrian troops move into Lebanon: Cairo warns

Beirut, April 13: Left-wing anxiety about the advance of Syrian troops into Lebanon since Sunday grew rapidly yesterday as the Syrian President, General Hafez Assad, announced in Damascus that the Lebanese President, Mr. Suleiman Franjieh, has undertaken to resign.

Gen. Assad added: "The Syrians, Christians and Muslims are ready to advance towards Lebanon in order to defend all the oppressed without distinction of religion."

Meanwhile Israel was reported to be making preparations for a military state of emergency in view of reports of Syrian moves and Egypt has warned that it would not allow any action that could lead to the liquidation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Lebanon.

Resignation of Mr. Franjieh, a Maronite Christian due to leave office in September anyway, would be in line with Muslim left-wing demands here, and it was a left-wing condition for accepting the present 10-day-old truce after one year of bloody civil war.

But leftist and Palestinian talks yesterday were dominated by the Syrian troop advance, which a leftist source said had reached a key crossroad on the Damascus-Beirut road, about 30 kms east of here.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 14, 1926

Sir A. Conan Doyle's claim challenged

A "Statesman" cable says:–

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's claim that a photograph shown from a lantern slide in a recent lecture was a spirit photograph of the dead Lord Combermere seated in his library on the day of his own funeral, is challenged by Lord Combermere's nephew, the scientist, Mr. Campbell Swinton, who declares that the photograph was taken in 1898 by an American then renting Combermere Abbey, and was not in the library but in the hall, where nobody ever sat.

Mr. Campbell Swinton adds that what is claimed as a spirit photograph of Lord Combermere is a mere smudge, and looks like a white-bearded man wearing a white waistcoat who sat in a chair and jumped rapidly up and down. The suggestion that it resembles Lord Combermere is ridiculous, he maintains.

From Page One

Top court raps EC on SIR 'discrepancies'

The judge noted that the Supreme COurt had permitted the poll body to embark on an inquisitorial exercise mindful of the latter's concern about the electoral rolls.

"The original SIR notification said voters in the 2002 electoral roll would not be touched. The 2002 roll would be the benchmark. But when you introduced 'logical discrepancy', you infracted that rule," Justice Bagchi told the EC.

Mr. Naidu said voters who could prove their credentials were retained. Those with disparity in their names or other background details were asked to provide details, which were verified.

"A voter in the 2002 roll was not required to give anything... When the Bihar SIR was argued, and the Bihar SIR was a facsimile of the SIR we are dealing with today, the EC was unequivocal when it submitted that a person in the 2002 voter list does not have to prove anything. No uploading of documents was required... And then you deviated from your original arguments," Justice Bagchi said.

So far, the Supreme Court had avoided any direct criticism of the SIR.

The flurry of oral observations from Justice Bagchi indicated a judicial calling-out of the atmosphere of uncertainty and crisis which gripped the population during a hasty SIR process, especially in poll-bound West Bengal.

Justice Bagchi referred to how the exclusion of voters in the name of logical discrepancy came "so close" to the date of election in West Bengal that the top court had to step in and deploy judicial officers to hear out the objections. This was all the more reason why the appeal process must not be hurried, the judge said.

The Supreme Court judge said the top court wanted a robust appellate process in place for the excluded voters as the purging of names from the list by the EC was a "*suo motu*" and unilateral process. This was followed by a "verification" of identity documents during the objections phase of the SIR, and not exactly a hearing.

"The appellate process must be robust... somewhere we are getting blinded by the dust and fury of an impending election... We need to protect the due process rights of the voters," Justice Bagchi said.

The poll body said it was plagued by inadequate human resources due to a non-cooperative West Bengal government.

"This is not a fight between the EC and the West Bengal government. This is not a blame-game. It is a question of voters being sandwiched between two constitutional authorities. Our adjudicatory process and interventions were meant to ensure fair elections. The appeal hearings cannot be hurried. We are not on 'ends justifying means'. We are on 'means subjecting themselves to reasonableness and fairness'," Justice Bagchi said.

Retail inflation inches up to 3.4% in March

The data released by the National Statistics Office is based on a new series with a base year 2024.

High inflation was noticed during March in gold and silver jewellery, coconut (copra), tomato, and cauliflower. On the other hand, inflation was in negative in onion, potato, garlic, arhar dal, and chickpeas, according to the NSO data.

The CPI was at 1.65% in 'electricity, gas and other fuels' segment during March as against 1.52% in the preceding month. Inflation rates for rural and urban segments are 3.63% and 3.11%, respectively. Housing inflation rate for March 2026 was 2.11%.

Highest inflation was in Telangana at 5.83% and the lowest in Mizoram at 0.66%.

The RBI has also supported economic activity by maintaining a stable repo rate, he added.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the CPI inflation rose slightly to 3.4% in March over February, indicating a mild initial impact of the West Asian crisis on the headline number. "The sequential uptick in year-on-year inflation was driven by food and electricity, gas and other fuels groups, with the latter reflecting the impact of the West Asia crisis across LPG and alternate fuels," she said.

IMD's forecast projects 'below normal' monsoon

2024 and 2025 have been years of surplus monsoon. Save for 2023, India has received "normal" or excess rainfall in all years since 2020.

The IMD is expected to update its monsoon forecast in May. The IMD's past history shows that its forecasts of a weak monsoon in April generally hold true though there have been several instances of the IMD predicting a "normal" monsoon and India staring at a drought.

In 2002, the IMD predicted a normal monsoon but India experienced one of its worst droughts (81% of LPA). In 2009, the IMD's April forecast predicted a near-normal monsoon (96-98% of LPA) but actual rainfall was around 77% of the LPA, resulting in one of the worst droughts in over a century. In 2018, IMD's April forecast predicted 97% of normal levels, and even the May update held the figure at 97%, but actual rainfall turned out to be 91% – well below normal. The IMD's official parlance doesn't use the term "drought" and refers to rain less than 90% of the LPA as "deficient".

India about to make greatest decision of 21st century: PM

Modi calls for dialogue, cooperation to amend women's reservation Act, says the govt. has taken concerns raised by Opposition seriously; three-day special sitting of Parliament begins on April 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, and other dignitaries exchange greetings during the *Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan*. ANI

Ahead of the three-day special sitting of Parliament for amending the women's reservation Act of 2023 to implement it before the next Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed hope on Monday that this would be achieved through "dialogue, cooperation, and participation".

India was about to make one of the greatest decisions of the 21st century, Mr. Modi said, while addressing a women's conference on the Act, the *Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan*.

"I say this with full responsibility that this is among the most significant decisions of our times. This decision is dedicated to women's power, to honouring women's strength. Our Parliament is on the verge of creating new history... a history that will fulfil the aspirations of the past and realise the commitments of the future," Mr. Modi said.

The Parliament passed the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam* in September 2023. It provides for the reservation of one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

The Budget Session has been extended and the special sittings are scheduled for April 16, 17, and 18 for the consideration and passage of the amendments for the implementation of the law before the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. The amendments to the Act will increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816, of which 273 would be reserved for women.

The Prime Minister said the amendments would realise the visions of the past and fulfil the resolutions of the future. He appreciated the contributions of women in governance.

He said that when the law was introduced in 2023, it was passed unanimously by all parties.

"In particular, our colleagues in the Opposition strongly insisted that it must be implemented by 2029. Keeping this timeline in mind, the government has taken the Opposition's concerns seriously. We have continued deliberations, explored new paths, and sought advice from constitutional experts," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that his government's efforts and priority remained focused on accomplishing this work through dialogue, cooperation, and participation.

ED arrests director of I-PAC in Bengal coal 'scam' case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The ED will seek I-PAC director Vinesh Chandel's custodial remand for questioning.

In a major action weeks ahead of the West Bengal Assembly election, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Vinesh Chandel, a director and co-founder of the political consultancy firm I-PAC, in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in the poll-bound State.

An official said Mr. Chandel was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Delhi late in the evening. He is expected to be produced before a special court later in the day. The ED will seek Mr. Chandel's custodial remand for questioning.

Mr. Chandel's premises in Delhi, apart from that of another I-PAC co-founder and director, Rishi Raj Singh, in Bengaluru and that of former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communications in-charge Vijay Nair in Mumbai, were searched by the ED on April 2 as part of this investigation.

The federal probe agency conducted searches in connection with the case on January 8 at the I-PAC office and the Kolkata residence of its founder and one of the directors, Pratik Jain, leading to a controversy after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrived at the said location along with State government officials and took away documents.

Assam moves SC against Telangana HC relief to Khera

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The State of Assam has moved the Supreme Court against a Telangana High Court decision to grant a transit anticipatory bail to Congress leader Pawan Khera for a week.

The Assam Police had filed a criminal case against Mr. Khera over his 'allegations' that the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife had three different passports.

The Telangana High Court had given Mr. Khera an interim relief in a case registered against him in Assam. It had allowed the Congress leader to apply to the jurisdictional court for regular bail after the one-week period.

Congress issues three-line whip to its LS MPs; unlikely to back delimitation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi

The Congress on Monday issued a three-line whip to all its Lok Sabha members to "be present without fail and support the party stand" during the three-day special session of Parliament, which has been convened to amend the women's reservation law and carry out a delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 Census.

The government has proposed increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by 50%. In the Lok Sabha, it plans to increase the strength from 543 to 816 members and then reserve 272 seats for women lawmakers.

Though the Congress will take a joint position after a meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc on Wednesday, sources told *The Hindu* that it will not support the constitutional amendment on delimitation.

At the same time, the party wants to ensure that it is not seen as going against the women's reservation law and, therefore, may suggest operationalising the law by offering one-third seats from the existing 543.

In September 2023, when the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (the women's reservation Bill) was being passed in Parliament, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had argued that the law should be implemented for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The party's stance echoed the opinion piece that Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi wrote in *The Hindu* on Monday. "Reservation for women is not the issue here. That issue has been settled. The real issue is delimitation, which based on the information unofficially available, is extremely dangerous and an assault on the Constitution itself," Ms. Gandhi argued.

Ms. Gandhi as well as Mr. Kharge have both insisted that the government convene an all-party meeting on the issue of delimitation after April 29, when the State elections get over.

Timing of the session

Speaking at a press conference, party's social media head Supriya Shrinate accused the Modi government of trying to hide behind the women's reservation to push through delimitation and avoid the caste census. She pointed out the Special Session was being held in the middle of the election campaign in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Nitish likely to resign today, new govt. a day later

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Ahead of his likely resignation on April 14, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met senior party leaders at his official residence to discuss names of legislators from the Janata Dal (United) who could be in the new Cabinet.

Sanjay Kumar Jha, Rajeev Ranjan Singh, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Bijendra Prasad Yadav and other senior Senior JD(U) leaders were seen entering Mr. Kumar's residence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the new government on April 15. The BJP is going to have a Chief Minister in the State for the first time.

Resisting amendments for delimitation can harm the South

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, and Chief Ministers Pinarayi Vijayan of Kerala, M.K. Stalin of Tamil Nadu, and A. Revanth Reddy of Telangana at a meet on delimitation in Chennai in March 2025. PTI

The BJP's push for an immediate delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies has triggered almost reflexive opposition from the Congress, while other Opposition parties are more guarded in their responses.

The government has not revealed its exact proposals, but party representatives who met with government interlocutors have come away with the following understanding: the Centre is proposing an expansion of the Lok Sabha from the present 543 members to 816, which will be distributed among States as per their existing share of seats; a third of them will be reserved for women; a Delimitation Commission will be appointed immediately to carve out new Lok Sabha constituencies based on the 2011 Census, within States. The Assemblies will undergo similar changes.

The Congress objections to the proposals are the following. First, it demands that delimitation must be based on the latest Census, which is currently under way; second, that the 33% reservation must be implemented immediately within the 543 seats of the Lok Sabha; and third, that the growing disparity between States in absolute numbers of seats is unacceptable, though their respective proportions will remain the same. The Congress has not suggested what a fairer method of distribution of Lok Sabha seats between States might be.

The BJP proposal is to have 50% additional seats in the Lok Sabha, one-third of the new total being reserved for women, nationally and in each State. For instance, Kerala, which at present has 20 seats, will have 30 seats, of which 10 will be reserved for women. The reserved seats will be rotated through a draw of lots. One-third of the SC/ST reserved seats will be reserved for women.

Articles 81 and 82

The size of the Lok Sabha and its distribution are governed by Articles 81 and 82 of the Constitution, and to effect the changes being proposed by the BJP, key amendments will have to be made to both. Between them, two principles are currently in force: first, the distribution of Lok Sabha seats among States is based on the 1971 Census; second, the distribution of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats within each State is based on the 2001 Census. These principles are to remain in force until the first Census after 2026 is conducted. Census 2027 is currently under way.

Assuming that nothing changes and the existing constitutional scheme is allowed to play out by default, the following will happen. Soon after Census 2027 data is published, a new Delimitation Commission will redistribute the existing 543 seats among all States and Union Territories according to their current share of population, and one-third of them will be reserved for women. The ceiling for Lok Sabha numbers is 550, and the commission could have a leeway of seven additional seats. In this default option – the delimitation that will be automatically triggered after the 2027 Census – States that have stabilised their populations are set to lose both their proportional share and their absolute numbers in the Lok Sabha.

The provisos of Articles 81 and 82 are designed to come into effect after the ongoing Census, and this will shift the centre of gravity of Indian politics from the south to the heartland in a dramatic manner.

South to lose

Kerala, which is set to lose the most proportionately, now has 20 Lok Sabha seats in the 543-member House. If those 543 seats are redrawn as per the projected population of 2026 across State boundaries, it could end up with 12 – eight fewer. As a proportion of the total strength, the State will shrink from 3.7% to 2.22%. Similarly, Tamil Nadu could lose eight seats and end up with 31, its share shrinking from 7.2% to 5.7%. Eight sitting MPs each from Kerala and Tamil Nadu will have no seat to contest in that scenario. If 33% reservation is simultaneously implemented on 543 seats, one-third of Kerala's 12 seats will be reserved for women – four seats.

In the current cohort of Kerala MPs, only one – Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – is a woman. Effectively, if 543 seats are redrawn as required under current constitutional provisions and 33% women's reservation is implemented, 11 or 12 sitting Lok Sabha MPs from the State will have no seat to contest. Simultaneously, States with a higher total fertility rate will gain in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the total: Uttar Pradesh from 80 seats to 91 (14.7% to 16.8%) and Bihar from 40 seats to 50 (7.4% to 9.2%). All these are estimations based on projected population.

It is to pre-empt this situation that the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Telangana and Punjab, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka attended a conference convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in March 2025. The resolution of the conference called for "fair delimitation" – spelled out as maintaining the current proportional share of States that have stabilised their populations. It said: "As the objective of population stabilisation...has not yet been achieved, the freeze on parliamentary constituencies based on the 1971 Census must be extended for another 25 years through necessary amendments." That freeze is written into Articles 81 and 82, and it is set to end this year.

Extending freeze

If the current proportional share of individual States in the Lok Sabha is to be maintained, the freeze will have to be extended further by amending these Articles.

After the current controversy erupted, Mr. Stalin posted on X on March 24: "It is our consistent stand that the current proportional representation of States should not be disturbed under any circumstances. To achieve this, the delimitation and distribution of constituencies among States must include a constitutional provision ensuring the same for the next 30 years." That is the crux of the matter.

If the BJP proposal is to keep the proportion same (based on 1971 Census) into the future, then the relevance of 2011 Census is only within each State.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Owaisi slams former ally Humayun Kabir

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday held his first meeting in Murshidabad after his party split with Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) days ahead of the Assembly polls.

Mr. Owaisi criticised both Mr. Kabir and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for injustice to the Muslims of Bengal.

During a public meeting in the Raghunathganj area on Monday afternoon, the AIMIM party chief said that grave injustices had been inflicted upon the Muslims of West Bengal.

Speaking on the issue of Mr. Kabir's viral video, Mr. Owaisi said that he or his party would not stand with anyone selling out the Muslims of Bengal and said that was why he ended the alliance within a day of the video being published.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi held a meeting in Murshidabad on Monday. ANI

Trinamool vandalised helipad: Cong.

The Congress on Monday alleged that a helipad being prepared for party leader Rahul Gandhi's rally at Raiganj in West Bengal on Tuesday was vandalised by the ruling Trinamool Congress workers and lodged a police complaint in this regard.

Repairs for the helipad are under way on a war footing to ensure that Mr. Gandhi's rally proceeds as planned, a senior Congress leader said.

Congress leader Mohit Sengupta alleged that the incident was a deliberate attempt to disrupt the visit. "We have filed a complaint with the police. The administration must ensure that such incidents are not repeated and adequate security is provided," he said.

The Trinamool rejected the charge and claimed that the Congress itself had done it to malign the ruling party. PTI

> Because this is election time, to get votes, the [Tamil Nadu] Chief Minister [M.K. Stalin] is portraying the Central government as being against farmers

TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN
BJP candidate

EC launches helpline, email to report issues

The Election Commission launched a dedicated helpline (1800 3450 008) and email to enable West Bengal voters and citizens to report law and order-related complaints during the election period, a senior official said on Monday. They will remain functional till the completion of the counting process. PTI

> Prove in this election that the AIADMK and its ally the BJP have no space in Tamil Nadu. Annihilate them in the polls, and wisely choose the DMK

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN
Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister

West Bengal Chief Minister speaking at an election campaign in Purba Bardhaman on Monday. ANI

Resign as PM if you want to be BJP's face in West Bengal, CM tells Modi

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The war of words between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP intensified on Monday, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee countering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that all the candidates contesting the Assembly polls on BJP ticket were "Modi".

Speaking at a public meeting on Monday, Ms. Banerjee said if Mr. Modi wanted to be the face of the party in the West Bengal election, he should first resign as Prime Minister. "Modi*ji* is saying he is the candidate for all the 294 seats. You must resign as Prime Minister and tell the people that you will be the Chief Minister of West Bengal and they should vote for you," the Trinamool Congress chairperson said.

Mr. Modi made the remark at a public meeting at Siliguri on Sunday. "You all are Modi to me. All these candidates are also Modi," he said.

The remark was, however, a counter to what the West Bengal Chief Minister had been saying at several public meetings that "she is the Trinamool candidate for all the 294 seats" and that people should vote thinking about her, not the individual candidates.

At the public meeting, Ms. Banerjee referred to the special intensive revision and said that in every constituency, roughly 25,000 voters had been deleted. "Is this an election or farce in the name of election," she asked. "Put me in jail, I will get more votes, or else shoot me dead," she said, criticising the Election Commission and the BJP.

Mamata wants nephew as CM, says Shah

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah who addressed public meetings at Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum district said Ms. Banerjee wanted to make her nephew the Chief Minister.

"Mamata*ji* wants to make her nephew the Chief Minister of Bengal. She is spreading lies that the Bengal government will be run from Delhi. I assure you that the next Chief Minister of Bengal will be a Bengal-born and Bengali-speaking person. It won't be your nephew, Mamata*ji*," the Home Minister said.

Mr. Shah has been saying this at several public meetings, asking the crowd whether they wanted the nephew as the Chief Minister. Abhishek Banerjee, who is the second top leader of the Trinamool Congress, is not contesting the Assembly polls.

'Will end infiltration in 45 days'

The Home Minister continued to target the Mamata government over the issue of illegal immigration and promised to end it in 45 days.

"Can the Chief Minister or her nephew throw infiltrators out? They do not even allot land for border fencing...The BJP will finish the task of land allotment for fencing India's borders with Bangladesh within 45 days of assuming power and we will pick infiltrators one by one from the whole country and throw them out," he said.

The election to the 294-member West Bengal Assembly will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29. Votes will be counted on May 4.

'Stalin promoting false narrative that delimitation will hurt southern States'

There will be proportional increase of seats across the country due to delimitation and 'everybody is back to where they were', says the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry; he also defends the National Education Policy, says T.N. has failed to reach its 'true potential' under DMK govt.

INTERVIEW

Piyush Goyal

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Monday rejected the allegation that the proposed delimitation would prove to be disadvantageous to southern States. During a conversation with journalists of *The Hindu*, the Bharatiya Janata Party leader accused Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin of promoting a false narrative on the issue. "There is a proportional increase across the country. Everybody is back to where they were," he said, while promising to implement 33% reservation for women by 2029. Edited excerpts from the interview:

Quite a bit of concern has been raised by the southern States, especially Tamil Nadu, over the delimitation that is coming up.

It is a very silly concern. It either shows they are uneducated or that their understanding is so poor that, in that case, they do not deserve to be in government.

We are trying to give women reservation by 2029. Clearly, the caste census will take much longer, and we will not be able to do it by 2029. What we have come up with is a very practical solution that works for everybody.

We will bring one-third reservation for women by adding seats to the current strength of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the legislatures. By adding seats, we do not deprive anybody of the number of seats they could contest, and yet we bring in one-third seats that will be reserved for women. That process of selecting which seats will be reserved will be randomised.

So, we will increase the seats, bring one-third reservation for women, and ensure we fulfil our commitment to our sisters that women get 33% reservation, and we are doing a proportional increase. So, all that fake narrative that Mr. Stalin and his ilk were promoting – that the southern States will be at a disadvantage and that their seats will reduce because their population has reduced – is finished. There is a proportional increase across the country. Everybody is back to where they were.

In Tamil Nadu, the DMK has successfully built a narrative that the BJP stands against what they call the ethos of Tamil Nadu; that you are against social justice and the Tamil language, and that you are trying to impose Hindi to promote only Sanskrit.

R. RAGU

I do not know what makes you believe they have successfully done that, because on the ground I am not finding that. Maybe they have managed to get a few headlines, but the fact of life is that nobody could have given as much respect to the Tamil ethos, to Tamil culture and tradition, as Prime Minister Modi has over the last several years.

I do not think the Stalin family, given their way of life – without any further comments – can understand the rich traditions that Tamil Nadu is known for, to which you are alluding.

Of course, I do not know where Sanskrit came in from, but you are alluding to Hindi, I would think. I have challenged Mr. Stalin. I have yet to hear back from him. I have probably, umpteen times, asked him to show me one place in the National Education Policy 2020 where Hindi is even mentioned – let alone imposed. What the National Education Policy is doing is bringing in a lot of flexibility into the education system.

What it is doing is trying to promote our mother tongues. It is trying to promote our local languages. We recognise that local languages are better known to people, particularly those in villages and from humble backgrounds, and they would be able to perform better.

Otherwise, as had happened earlier under a colonial mindset, when everything was conducted in English, important positions in government and elsewhere had become the preserve of a few English-speaking sections of society. What we are trying to do is give equal opportunity to everybody.

A person in Tamil Nadu may be able to express himself better in Tamil than he could in English, but it is his choice. I personally think more emphasis is being given to Tamil by the BJP government than by the DMK government itself, which has hardly shown any respect for promoting the Tamil language.

In a recent talk, you mentioned that the DMK government had ruined the economy of Tamil Nadu, specifically mentioning healthcare infrastructure and so on. But the data that we refer to show Tamil Nadu ranks consistently among the top 10 Indian States.

So which data do you refer to, and what specifically are your measures? ...we believe a State like Tamil Nadu – well educated, highly talented and skilled – has much more potential. It is the true potential of Tamil Nadu which needs government intervention to be harnessed in the normal course.

Tamil Nadu has historically been better off. We have the seashore, and we have historically been a more prosperous region, right from the times of the Pandyas or the Chola kingdom. So, we believe it is this potential that we are not able to reach.

So you are speaking of not achieving potential and not necessarily existing potential being ruined.

Well, existing potential is naturally getting ruined. Otherwise, we could have been much better off. And I am sure you will appreciate that, with the availability of drugs and crime against women, or with the kind of stories I hear about liquor tragedies and spurious liquor, the situation is concerning. With the state of affairs I see among teachers and our healthcare workers, and the problems they are facing; when I hear that STC [State Transport Corporation] employees' PF is gradually not being paid – that's a government body – all of these clearly show a loss of faith in the government. I do not see much investment happening in development activities. Most of the development activities that you see around are either Centrally driven or funded. The national highways, the airports or the ports – all of that are Centrally driven.

Father, son and big fight: it runs in the family for two BJP candidates in North 24 Parganas

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Among candidates contesting the Assembly election in West Bengal, two Bharatiya Janata Party candidates from the same family are seeking to restore the party's lost ground in North 24 Parganas.

Arjun Singh and his son Pawan Singh are contesting on BJP ticket from the Noapara and Bhatpara Assembly constituencies, respectively.

Arjun Singh, a well-known face in West Bengal politics, has wielded considerable influence in the Barrackpore subdivision. Known in the political circles as a "strongman" who has his sway over the jute belt of the district, Mr. Singh is outspoken and has often made headlines for frequently switching parties.

Almost a decade ago, he was a Trinamool Congress MLA. He defected to the BJP in 2019 after the State's ruling party denied him ticket to contest the Barrackpore Lok Sabha seat. Contesting on BJP ticket, he defeated former Railway Minister and Trinamool candidate Dinesh Trivedi by around 13,000 votes. He returned to the Trinamool in May 2022, but switched back to the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election after being denied ticket again. In 2024, he lost to Trinamool leader Partha Bhowmick by about 64,000 votes. The defeat has pushed him to the fringes. The Assembly elections are an opportunity for him to reclaim his prominence.

"I am contesting the Assembly polls after a considerable time. I had been an MLA till 2019, but that does not make a difference. I am confident that the Noapara seat will not be a problem," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Arjun Singh, who has a reputation for often being on the wrong side of the law, claimed he had been booked in multiple cases by the Trinamool government. "I am thankful that Mamata Banerjee has slapped so many cases against me; not only people in West Bengal but across the country, and abroad want to take selfies with me," he said. The 64-year-old is one of the key faces of the BJP on whom the party is banking in North 24 Parganas. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had accompanied him to file his nomination last week.

Family matters: The father-son duo of Arjun Singh and Pawan Singh are contesting on BJP ticket from the Noapara and Bhatpara Assembly constituencies, respectively. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Noapara, Mr. Singh is contesting against Trinamool Congress student leader Trinankur Bhattacharya, a relatively young political entrant. In the 2021 Assembly polls, the Trinamool's Manju Basu defeated the BJP's Sunil Singh from Noapara by around 26,000 votes. The Left Front has nominated Gargi Chatterjee, CPI(M) and trade union leader from the region.

Remained in BJP

Mr. Pawan Singh, the BJP MLA for Bhatpara, won the seat in 2021 by a margin of 13,000 votes. Despite his father changing political sides, he has remained with the BJP.

A soft-spoken politician, Mr. Pawan Singh said his contest is "against himself" and stressed the need to create jobs in the jute belt. The 38-year-old said a BJP government would bring industries to the State, something he claimed the Trinamool Congress has not been able to do. He is contesting against Amit Gupta of the Trinamool and Asonarayan Singh of the Left Front.

Bhatpara and Noapara have a significant population of non-Bengali voters who migrated to the region to work in jute mills, many of which are now a bleak shadow of their past. The region has witnessed several incidents of political and communal violence. The constituencies, located on the left bank of the Hooghly, have seen a lot of deletions during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which could impact the outcome.

North 24 Parganas, which elects 33 MLAs – the highest for any district in the State – holds the key to determining who will form the government after the results are declared on May 4. The BJP has pinned its hopes on the father-son duo in this election.

3 Nigerians booked for taking part in Bengal rally

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Three persons of Nigerian origin have been booked for participating in a rally of the Trinamool Congress in the New Town area of Kolkata.

A video circulating on social media shows the three foreign nationals participating in the rally and holding political posters and raising slogans.

The video, posted by BJP candidate Tarunjyoti Tiwari, shows a group chanting "Joy Bangla" and "Trinamool Congress Zindabad". The Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, under whose jurisdiction the incident occurred, said the foreign nationals participated in the gathering out of curiosity. "The matter has been duly enquired into. Some foreign nationals briefly joined an AITC rally in Baguihati out of curiosity. As they lacked valid documents, action has been initiated under Section 23 of the Immigration and Foreigner Act, 2025," the police said.

The BJP on Monday filed a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer over the incident.

INBRIEF

Asha Bhosle cremated with full state honours in Mumbai

Thousands of people lined the streets of Mumbai to bid a teary farewell to legendary singer Asha Bhosle on Monday evening. The mortal remains of Bhosle, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 92, was cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park, Dadar. Her son Anand performed the rituals. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputies Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar attended the ceremony. Before the pyre was lit, singers Shaan, Sudesh Bhosle and Anup Jalota paid a musical tribute to the enduring legend.

SC 'protects' Lalu from appearing in person in trial

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad to raise his plea of lack of prior sanction for investigation launched against him in the land-for-jobs scam case probed by the CBI during trial. A Bench headed by Justice M.M. Sundresh did not intervene to grant the former Railway Minister interim relief in the form of stay of the trial, but "protected" from appearing in person at the trial. The court said legal issues as to whether Section 17A had been necessary for the CBI before launching the probe would be based on the facts of the case, leaving it for Mr. Prasad's lawyers take it up as a ground of defence in the trial proceedings.

Press Club slams attack on office of Assamese daily

The Press Club of India (PCI) on Monday condemned the attack on the office of Assamese daily *Asomiya Pratidin* on Friday, amid the ongoing Assembly elections in Assam. "What is noteworthy is that the vandalisation, carried out on the night of April 10 by unidentified persons at the newspaper's Lakhimpur office, occurred just hours after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made public remarks against the Pratidin media group," the PCI said in a statement. Expressing concern over "the shrinking space for journalism" in the State, the PCI urged the State authorities to conduct a swift and impartial inquiry into the incident.

SC seeks Centre's response to plea on proper MSP for crops

The Supreme Court on Monday examined a petition saying the government should pay farmers at least the weighted average cost of production of various crops through the declaration of a proper minimum support price (MSP), and procurement at that rate. "Indian farmers are facing a terrible financial crisis as they are unable to sell their produce even at their actual cost of production. This has led to large-scale suicides of farmers; 17,000 have taken their own lives in Maharashtra alone in the last five years," the petition said. The court issued notice to the Centre on the petition which argued that the government and its institutions calculate the cost of production of different agricultural produce on a State by State basis.

State Census offices told to monitor online narratives

Officials and field staff should look into adverse comments about the ongoing exercise and counter false information, CCI tells State Directorates; first phase under way in 8 States and U.T.s

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) has directed the Census Directorates in the States to "monitor social media narratives round the clock" to flag propaganda and false narratives against the ongoing Census exercise.

The first phase of Census 2027 – the House Listing and Housing Operations (HLO) – kicked off on April 1 in eight States and Union Territories. Prior to that, the RG&CCI had launched a self-enumeration portal. The online enumeration will be followed by a door-to-door visit by the Census enumerators from April 15 where the details will be verified.

On March 19, RG&CCI Mritunjay Kumar Narayan wrote to the State Directorates saying that they may depute effective 24/7 teams for handling social media accounts along with "content creation capabilities".

The letter added, "As the HLO operations begin, it will be crucial to monitor social media narratives around the clock for any adverse comments/propaganda items/false narratives, so that they can be countered/fact-checked in real time through State/UT Directorate or field functionaries, with intimation to the ORGI (Office of the RG&CCI)."

Officials conducting pre-test exercise of population Census 2027 in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. R.V. MOORTHY

Mr. Narayan added that for the successful enumeration in 2027, it is crucial that adequate publicity measures are undertaken to raise awareness among people of the Census.

The second phase of the Census, the Population Enumeration, which will also enumerate caste, will conclude by February 28, 2027, in all States and Union Territories, except Ladakh and hill-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. In these places, the second phase will be completed by September 30, 2026.

Confidential info

Mr. Narayan said the publicity campaign will not only inform people about the questions that will be asked in the two phases but also reassure them that all information will be kept confidential, fostering trust and confidence in the process. "The use of a mix of media, including radio, television, newspapers, and social media, will be instrumental in sensitising the public and ensuring accurate data collection, as demonstrated in previous Censuses," he added.

In 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed a parliamentary panel that the "right kind of messaging will be done to tackle the miscommunication and rumours around the National Population Register (NPR) and Census".

The Census, a decennial exercise, was last held in 2011. The NPR was also first compiled that year.

The first phase of Census and the NPR were initially to be rolled out in some States on April 1, 2020, but were postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the protests related to the NPR and its link to the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, the government had decided not to update the NPR during the present Census.

Two suspended staff are brain behind TCS Nashik case: police

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
GADCHIROLI

Two suspended employees of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Nashik, are suspected to be the masterminds behind the alleged sexual harassment and attempted forcible religious conversions at the workplace, senior police officers investigating the matter told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Investigators identified the duo as Tausif Attar and Nida Khan.

The police said four teams had been formed to trace Ms. Khan, who is absconding.

"Both Mr. Attar and Ms. Khan would try to brainwash other employees. After Mr. Attar returned from Mecca three years ago, his views became extremely radical. He used to say Islam is the only religion and speak ill of Hinduism. He would brainwash others to accept Islam. He also raped a victim on the false promises of marriage while concealing facts that he was already married. The accused duo managed to completely change the victim's belief," according to the police.

"Ms. Nida used to introduce young women to the accused. She was the one who taught the victims how to offer namaz and recite Kalmas," the police added.

Meanwhile, a local court in Nashik sent suspended senior manager of TCS Ashwini Chainani, to two more days of police custody. The police sought an extension of her police custody on the grounds that she had failed to take timely action on the complaints raised by the victims. "Over 78 e-mails were exchanged. There were a few phone calls as well. Had she taken note of these concerns on time and escalated them, these things would not have gone so far," the police argued.

So far, nine FIRs have been registered, and seven accused arrested. The alleged sexual harassment and forcible conversions had been going on in the Nashik office for the past four years. TCS has suspended all eight staff named in the cases.

Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran has assured that action would be taken against those found guilty, according to a statement from the Tata Group.

The company said it has ordered an investigation.

Maoist killed in Bastar; first instance after March 31

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

A 45-year-old Maoist carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on Monday, said a senior police officer.

The deceased Maoist, Rupi, an area committee-level member, hailed from Telangana. A police statement described her as the last active "Telugu Maoist cadre in Bastar".

This is also the first time a gunfight has been reported since the government declared Chhattisgarh free of armed Maoists on March 31.

The exchange of fire took place in a forested area in the Chhote Bethiya police station limits in the morning, when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Maoist operation, a senior police official said.

SC asks NIA to check political background in Malda gherao case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CJI had expressed suspicion that it was 'well-planned and deeply-instigated' act of violence

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to look into the political background of people involved in the gheraoing of seven judicial officers deployed for special intensive revision (SIR) work in Malda district of West Bengal on April 1.

"We would like to know if these persons have any political background... This is not an academic exercise. We intend to take this into its logical conclusion," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading the Bench comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, addressed Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the NIA.

The court ordered that the security arrangements for judicial officers in the State would continue.

Earlier in the month, the top court had directed the NIA to take over the investigation by plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

The Chief Justice had expressed a suspicion that the incident was not an emotional outburst, but a "well-planned, calculated and deeply-instigated" move. In an April 2 hearing, the court viewed the gheraoing of judicial officers for over seven hours at a government office in Malda, reportedly after several voters were struck off the electoral roll, as not only a "brazen attempt" to browbeat them but a challenge to the authority of the court itself.

Kejriwal seeks Delhi HC judge's recusal in excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday urged Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court to recuse herself from hearing the CBI's appeal in the excise policy case, asserting that a "real, grave and reasonable apprehension" of bias existed in his mind and that he may not receive a fair hearing.

The Centre opposed the plea, terming the allegations "contemptuous" and pressed for dismissal of the application with costs.

In a jam-packed courtroom, Mr. Kejriwal argued his case in person, a rarity in high-stakes proceedings.

Mr. Kejriwal objected to Justice Sharma's reported attendance at four events organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad, contending that the lawyer's body was ideologically aligned with the BJP-RSS and that, as a political opponent, he apprehended that the judge "might be sympathetic" to that ideology.

Arvind Kejriwal

When Justice Sharma asked whether she made any political or ideological statements at such events, Mr. Kejriwal replied that mere participation create an apprehension of bias, "since this is a political case". Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta opposed the plea, cautioning that allowing such applications would set a "dangerous precedent".

GE, IAF to set up engine repair facility for Tejas fleet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the U.S.-based aircraft engine maker – GE Aerospace – on Monday announced a contract to establish an in-country depot facility for F404-IN20 engines powering the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas fleet, marking a major boost to India's indigenous defence sustainment capabilities.

In a statement, GE Aerospace said the facility would be set up and operated by the IAF, with technical support, training, and supply of spares and specialised equipment from GE Aerospace. Once operational, it would eliminate dependence on overseas repair centres, significantly improving turnaround time for engine maintenance.

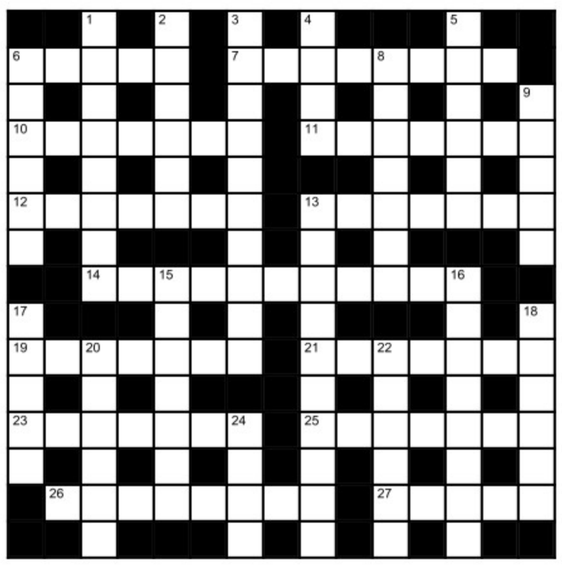
The move is seen as a key step in strengthening operational readiness.

TH CROSSWORD + 14767

(set by Bruno)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Long after love that's intimate (5)
7 Declined to allow two aces access to thoroughfare (4,4)
10 Anger about working condition to make industrial source material (4,3)
11 Artist part of paralympic association (7)
12 Blockbuster set in USA, perhaps minimally diverse? (7)
13 Rejected work certain to contain essentially hated standpoint (7)
14 Iconic discos moving North, leaving infection (11)
19 Mum and uncle originally blocked rings with patches (4-3)
21 Atheist, divorced, went all the way back for diamond (7)
23 Power hub arbitrarily placed around plant (7)
25 Record in text is put in front (7)
26 Without being whipped, bun was baked and consumed (8)
27 Small amounts of debris at sea crossing ocean's middle (5)

Down

1 Religious offender spread creationism without priests, often (8)
2 Dwarf injected with hormone in the bottom and set of chromosomes (6)
3 Ensures area in school below a crest's levelled (10)
4 Balloon with top blown off becomes slack (4)
5 Part of Germany, bit of Netherlands, and South Africa overwhelmed by America's reversal (6)
6 Indian job was mostly transported outside India (6)
8 Radical laws to limit Islamic State bigots (7)
9 Old instruments spoil easy when often plucked (5)
13 Asian character with long part of mouth in front (10)
15 Old custom from Madras - regularly draining cadaverous fluid (7)
16 Setter, oddly, has only brothers... that could result in a heart attack (8)
17 Extreme ritual - one's killed brutally (5)
18 Mum dropped off shakes for milk deliverers (6)
20 Rejects vessels after start of strife by president (6)
22 Lands top medal (6)
24 Dollar bill placed on the counter for nuts (4)

SUDOKU

	3				4			9
9								
	1			9		5		8
8				4	9			
	4		7		8		6	
			5	3				2
2		8		7			5	
								7
7			3				2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6850 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	3	4	5	6	8	7	9
5	9	7	2	1	8	3	6	4
4	8	6	9	3	7	2	1	5
9	7	8	1	4	2	6	5	3
1	4	5	6	8	3	7	9	2
3	6	2	5	7	9	4	8	1
6	2	4	7	9	1	5	3	8
8	5	9	3	6	4	1	2	7
7	3	1	8	2	5	9	4	6

FAITH

Baisakhi: new beginnings

Baisakhi marks the first day of the month of Vaikash and is traditionally celebrated on the 13th or 14th of April. Baisakhi holds special significance for Sikhs, said Prof. Kumool Abbi. Historically, it marks the birth of the Khalsa order by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, on April 13, 1699. During that time, Punjab reeled under religious persecution and tyranny of the Mughal rule. After the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur for refusing to convert to Islam, under the order of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Guru Gobind Singh became the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. He initiated the formation of the new order of the Khalsa, (meaning, pure), at Takht Keshgarh Sahib on Vaisakhi by baptising the five *punj pyaras* (volunteers) with the sacred nectar. The inclusive and pluralistic philosophy of the Khalsa order urged them to be valiant, selfless warriors.

Traditionally, Baisakhi synchronises with the celebration of spring harvest in north India. In many parts of the country, it is also the date of the Indian solar new year. It corresponds to others celebrating the traditional solar new year, like *Pohela, Boisakh, Bhihu, Vishu* and *Puthandu*. It marks the Sun's entry to the Mesha rasi, indicating the transition to Aries.

Baisakhi is culturally linked to the harvesting of crops. The farmer celebrates his intimate connection with his land with which he shares a deep bond. It is a means of sustenance, and he acknowledges the reciprocal relationship. As he reaps the harvest, he offers gratitude and prays for prosperity and abundance for his family and community. The festival symbolises the robust, resilient spirit and vitality of Punjabis.

INBRIEF

Pirojsha to succeed Nadir at Godrej Industries Group

Godrej Industries Group on Monday announced that Nadir Godrej, Chairperson of the Group, will retire upon turning 75 in August 2026 and will assume the role of Chairman Emeritus. Former Godrej Group Chairperson Adi Godrej's son Pirojsha Godrej (45), has been named as Chairperson Designate of the Godrej Industries Group. He will succeed his uncle Mr. Nadir Godrej as Chairperson of the Godrej Industries Group and Godrej Industries Ltd., the holding company of the Group, effective August 14. He will continue to serve as Chairperson of Godrej Properties, Godrej Capital, and Godrej Ventures.

World Bank chief cautions on jobs crisis even after war ends

The West Asia war will dominate global finance officials' talks this week in Washington, but World Bank President Ajay Banga is sounding the alarm about a bigger, looming crisis: a huge gap in jobs for the 1.2 billion people who will reach working age in developing countries in the next 10 to 15 years. At current trajectories, those economies will generate only about 400 million jobs, leaving a deficit of 800 million jobs, Mr. Banga told *Reuters*. He admitted that focusing people on the long-term is daunting, given a series of short-term shocks that have buffeted the global economy since the COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent being the war in West Asia.

Rajasthan's 60 GW projects awaiting transmission links

India's top solar energy-generating state of Rajasthan has clean energy projects of capacity amounting to about 60 gigawatt (GW) awaiting transmission links as planners struggle to keep pace with a rapid build-out, a regulatory filing showed. The problem underscores a critical challenge for India in its effort to nearly double its non-fossil based power generation to 500 GW by 2030 as the systems carry electricity to other states from renewable-rich regions such as Rajasthan. The western desert state has 179 GW of renewable energy potential, the April 10 filing showed. REUTERS

As blockade begins, 2 tankers arrive to pump in Iran crude

Felicity, a very large crude carrier, reached Sikka on Sunday night with 2 million barrels of oil; while Jaya, another tanker, reached Paradip with another 2 million barrels loaded at Kharg Island

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A day before the U.S. blockade of Iranian oil went into effect, two supertankers carrying crude oil from Iran arrived at Indian ports. These would be the first such Iranian crude cargo to reach the country in around seven years.

Felicity, a very large crude carrier (VLCC) operated by the National Iranian Tanker Company, reached Sikka on Gujarat's coast on Sunday night. The vessel has brought about 2 million barrels of oil loaded at the Kharg Island in mid-March.

Jaya, another tanker, reached Paradip in Odisha. It too has ferried 2 million barrels of oil loaded at the Kharg Island in late February, before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran.

The charterers of the oil cargoes that reached India have not been disclosed. While Paradip port is run by Indian Oil Corporation, which has purchased at least one Iranian crude shipment, Sikka handles crude cargoes for Reliance Industries and Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

Clearance sale: The purchases were a result of a one-month exemption given by the U.S. on sale of Iranian oil in transit. REUTERS

The purchases were a result of a one-month exemption given by the U.S. last month on the sale of Iranian oil in transit. The waiver was aimed to ease disruptions in oil supply and check crude oil prices after Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz following the U.S.-Israel attack on February 28.

An estimated 95 million barrels of Iranian oil is at sea and the U.S. waiver expires on April 19.

However, on Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz after marathon 21-hour peace talks with Iran in Islamabad ended without a deal. With this, fresh export of Iranian crude is likely to be hit as Washington seeks to choke Tehran's oil economy and negotiate a deal in its own terms.

"Since the talks broke down, the U.S. Central Command announced a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz targeting all traffic to and from Iranian ports specifically. Vessels heading to other regional ports are unaffected," Erik Grundt, senior data analyst at Rystad Energy, told *The Hindu*.

The volatile situation and uncertainty over a safe passage for ships affected marine traffic even after the ceasefire was announced on April 8. Around 20 vessels, mostly oil and LPG tankers, transited the Strait between April 8 and 12.

"Three VLCCs exited the Persian Gulf eastbound over the weekend. These include the Greek-owned Serifos (chartered by Thailand's PTT, carrying Saudi crude bound for Malacca) and two Chinese-owned vessels chartered by Unipec, both of which had aborted earlier exit attempts. After the peace talks broke down, two ballast crude carriers turned around in the strait. These were Agios Fanourios I and Shalamar" Mr. Grundt added.

(With inputs from PTI)

Indices plunge 1% as U.S.-Iran talks collapse

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed nearly 1% lower on Monday as the failure of U.S.-Iran negotiations heightened concerns of a prolonged conflict driving crude oil prices sharply higher.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 702.68 points, or 0.91%, to settle at 76,847.57. During the day, it dived 1,681.93 points or 2.16% to 75,868.32.

The 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 207.95 points or 0.86%, to end at 23,842.65.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Maruti, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank were the biggest laggards. ICICI Bank, NTPC and Axis Bank were the winners.

The U.S. and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan, leaving the fate of a tenuous two-week ceasefire in doubt, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the collapse of the negotiations. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled marginally higher.

European markets were trading lower.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 7.73% to $102.6 per barrel.

The rupee, too, slumped 52 paise to settle at 93.35 against the U.S. dollar on Monday. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 93.30 against the US dollar and moved between a low of 93.40 and a high of 93.25 during the session.

'India will have preferential access to 38 developed nations'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Monday said the U.K. FTA with India would likely be operationalised and would come into effect on May 1, after the four nations – Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland–had already come into effect in October.

Piyush Goyal

Asked about the outlook for FY27, he said India would grow because so many more FTAs were coming into play.

"Just talked to the Oman ministers. I am telling you, the Oman FTA will be effective from June 1. The U.K. minister and I talked about a week ago, and I met him in Cameroon also at the WTO. The New Zealand minister is coming in on April 24, and I get free from here on April 21. He met me in Cameroon. He says I am coming to sign and ink the deal. Once that is done, he can go to Parliament, and by October, November he says we will clear it. So maybe by January, New Zealand will come into play," he told journalists of *The Hindu*.

India-U.S. trade deal

On the state of play of trade talks with the U.S., he said India had finalised the trade deal, but a trade deal should give preferential access and market access compared with competitors.

"So if my rate is X, it has to be lower than my competitors, so I get a chance to increase my business. That's the essence of any trade deal that we do. We finalised the trade deal, and then the Supreme Court (of the U.S) order took away that competitive edge. So we have to work with the U.S. to see how that competitive edge can come back to us, and the trade deal is on," he said.

Mr. Goyal said, in fact, the U.K. and EU, in their history, would not have cleared any FTA as fast as they did with India.

"Early next year, maybe January, February next year, if not earlier, the EU will be operational. So gentlemen, 38 developed countries, covering two-thirds of global trade and global GDP. Now India will have preferential access (to)," he said.

'Major job creation'

He said in Tirupur alone there would be a huge amount of jobs, ₹45,000 crore worth of production, and Tirupur industrialists were telling him that they would double their business in the next three or four years.

About Chinese investment, he said if there were sectors – desirable sectors like electronic components and stuff like that – India was willing to allow Chinese investment with technology transfer to come into India.

"The automatic approval, what we have done – beneficial up to 10%, you will appreciate – is to cover large funds and all who may have a small Chinese element. So that we have allowed up to 10% beneficial, but we are cautious in our approach. But we are also conscious that India needs investment, India needs capital for growth. That's what we are encouraging," he added.

LIC board approves 1:1 bonus share issue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The board of State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) approved issuance of bonus equity shares in the ratio of 1:1 to existing shareholders.

The record date will be announced later. One fully paid up equity share of ₹10 each will be issued for every one fully paid-up equity share (of ₹10 each) by capitalising almost ₹6,325 crore reserves and surplus as on December 31, 2025.

LIC will capitalise ₹6,325 crore of reserves and surplus.

"Since listing in May 2022, LIC has been paying dividends consistently and also increasing dividend per share over a period of time from ₹1.50-12 per share," said chief executive officer and managing director R. Doraiswamy.

"We have been continuously evaluating various mechanisms for rewarding our shareholders and we believe this proposed bonus issue is a significant step taken by us in that direction," he added.

RMZ to invest $35 bn in data units, AI infra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Realty asset platform RMZ plans to invest more than $35 billion in India over five years in data centres, Artificial Intelligence factories, mixed-use commercial office development and residential projects.

The investments will be funded through a mix of debt and equity with the group also mulling an initial public offering to secure long-term capital.

About half of the $35 billion would go into digital infrastructure. RMZ, in partnership with Colt, a unit of Devonshire, the family office of Fidelity's Abigail Johnson, is building co-location data centres across Navi Mumbai, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru.

"The group's five-year target is to reach 1.5 gigawatts of co-location capacity in India, at a capital outlay of $12 to $15 billion," RMZ said in a statement.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 4545 / 5669)

दिनांक/Dated : 13-04-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

1. आरएफएफ, वीएसएससी तुंबा में उन्नत रासायनिक प्रणाली के प्रक्रम इंजीनियरी एवं विकास सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of building for Process Engineering and Development facility for Advanced Chemical Systems at RFF VSSC Thumba (Civil & PH works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/01/2026-27 Dated 08.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 348.28 लाख/Lakh)**
2. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में उन्नत डीटॉनिक्स अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला (एडीआरएल) का समस्तरीय विस्तार (सिविल कार्य) / Horizontal Extension of Advanced Detonics Research Laboratory (ADRL) at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/02/2026-27 Dated 08.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 157.59 लाख/Lakh)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 11.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/ hrs. से/ to दिनांक 25.04.2026, 23.00 बजे/ hrs. (Sl. No. 1 & 2)

3. आइआइएसयू, वट्टियूरकावु के आइएसटीएल भवन के ऊर्ध्वाधर विस्तार हेतु 1000 कि.ग्रा. लिफ्ट की अभिकल्पना, संविरचना, आपूर्ति, उन्निर्माण, परीक्षण, कमीशनिंग और समग्र वार्षिक अनुरक्षण संविदा (सीएएमसी) / Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of 1000 kg lift for vertical extension of ISTL building at IISU, Vattiyoorkavu / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/M01/01/2026-2027 Dated 10.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 37.07 लाख/Lakh)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 14.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 27.04.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs. (Sl. No. 3)

ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER

4. वट्टीयूरकावु में 500 घन मी. क्षमता की वृत्ताकार उन्नयित जल टंकी का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of 500 Cum capacity circular elevated water tank at Vattiyoorkavu (Civil & PH works) / **VSSC/CMG/C01/30/2025-26 Dt. 04.03.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 409.07 लाख/Lakh)**
5. वीआरसी मुख्य भवन फेस–2, वीएसएससी के संवर्धन हेतु 1500 कि. ग्रा. माल उत्थापक की अभिकल्पना, संविरचन, आपूर्ति, उन्निर्माण, परिक्षण और कमीशनिंग / Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 1500 kg Goods Elevator for augmentation of VRC Main Building Phase-2, VSSC / **VSSC/CMG/M01/03/2025-2026 Dated 04.03.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 30.99 लाख/Lakh)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 22.04.2026 को 23.00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए / Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 22.04.2026 (Sl. No. 4 & 5)

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.com/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.com/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Head, CMG, VSSC

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry Of Science And Technology
Government Of India

**DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

AWARD OF DBT – RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2025 - 2026

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the award of "DBT-Research Associateship" for pursuing research in frontier areas of Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The Associateship is tenable in Premier Research Institutions/Universities including non-profit R&D Institutions within India. The Associateships are awarded under the "DBT-Research Associateship" programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Start Date of Online Application: 13th April, 2026
End Date of Online Application: 12th May, 2026

Detailed information on the fellowship grant, eligibility criteria and application process is available at DBT website - **https://dbt.gov.in/** and RCB website - **https://rcb.res.in/DBTRA/**. To apply, interested applicants may kindly visit Common Fellowship Portal via **https://fellowships.gov.in/**.

Interested and eligible applicants from the North East Region are also encouraged to apply.

For any queries, please contact DBT-HRD Project & Management Unit, Regional Centre for Biotechnology at **ra.dbt@rcb.res.in**.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for Erection, testing and commissioning work of 132 KV 3 Phase S/C Transmission Line at Deedwana Traction Substation to Proposed 132 KV GSS Sanwasa line on Labour Contract Basis (Under Railway Deposit work) (Approx. 18Km) against Specification No. CONTRACT- I/2025-26/BN-9018002538.(UBN : VPN2627SLOB00109) are invited from interested bidders up to 04:00 PM on 08.05.2026.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I), Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/26/748 RRVPN/TR-7495/2026

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for supply of Substation Structure set for Mounting of 11/0.4 KV Transformer on Double Pole (166.746KG) under TN-2139 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00008), Galvanised M.S Rod Type Earthing Sets with Clamps and GI Wire under TN-2140 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00010), 33/11 KV Sub Station Structure Set (Rural) under TN-2141 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00011), GS Stay Wire of size 7/10 SWG and 7/8 SWG under TN-2144 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00013), 11 KV 45 KN Porcelain Disc Insulators "B&S" Type under TN-2146 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00012), Hot Dip Galvanized steel stay sets for size 20 X 2400 mm under TN-2147 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00016), B&S" Type Hardware for 11 KV, 45 KN Disc Insulator under TN-2148 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00014) and HRC Fuse Link and Base of different ratings under TN-2149 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00015).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/752 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)**

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

FROM THE HOUSE OF MYSORE SANDAL SOAP

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date:13.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2026-27/IND1224	Procurement of Printed zipper pouch for M S (5 in 1) 9 inch agarbathi 75 sticks	312000 Nos.	11-04-2026	27-04-2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/IND1225	Procurement of Printed zipper pouch for M S Pineapple 130g 9 inch agarbathi	312000 Nos.	11-04-2026	27-04-2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/SE0230	Tender Inviting Quotation for Export Consignments of FCL & LCL - Clearance Through Chennai/Cochin/Mumbai/Krishnapatnam Ports of India for the period of one year	Services	11-04-2026	27-04-2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/IND1227	Procurement of Abbalide	44600 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
5	KSDL/2026-27/IND1228	Procurement of Isobornyl Cyclo Hexanol (IBCH)	66100 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
6	KSDL/2026-27/IND1229	Procurement of Ambrettolide	3900 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
7	KSDL/2026-27/IND1230	Procurement of Sandranol	140600 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
8	KSDL/2026-27/IND1231	Procurement of Tonalid	50000 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
9	KSDL/2026-27/IND1232	Procurement of Methyl Ionone Gamma	33000 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
10	KSDL/2026-27/IND1233	Procurement of Petitgrain oil	11200 Kgs	11-04-2026	15-05-2026
11	KSDL/2026-27/IND1226	Procurement of Inner and outer corrugated boxes for Mysore Sandal Face pack - 75g	Goods	11-04-2026	15-05-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

UMM AL-KHAIR

Israeli troops fire tear gas at schoolchildren in West Bank

AFP

Israeli forces fired tear gas at Palestinian schoolchildren staging a sit-in on Monday in the occupied West Bank, after settlers blocked access to their school. The Israeli military confirmed that it had dispersed an "unusual gathering", but did not specify whether its troops had fired tear gas at the children. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia offers to take in enriched uranium from Iran, says Peskov

REUTERS

Russia is ready to take in Iran's enriched uranium as part of a future peace deal with the United States, the Kremlin said on Monday. "This proposal was voiced by President Putin in contacts with both the U.S. and regional states. The offer still stands, but has not been acted upon," the Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. AFP

PARIS

Iran executed at least 1,639 in 2025, more hangings feared, say NGOs

AP

Iranian authorities executed at least 1,639 people in 2025 and now risks hanging more in the the wake of the war against the U.S. and Israel, two NGOs — Iran Human Rights and Together Against the Death Penalty — said on Monday, urging the West to put capital punishment "at the heart" of any negotiations with Tehran. AFP

MANILA

Philippines accuses China of poisoning disputed waters

AFP

The Philippines accused Chinese fishermen on Monday of pouring cyanide in waters in the Spratly Islands, a flashpoint in the disputed South China Sea that has been the site of violent confrontations with Chinese vessels. These actions also "threaten our Navy personnel" through exposure to contaminated water, it said. AFP

Orban loses Hungary vote to newcomer Peter Magyar

Agence France-Presse
BUDAPEST

Victory lap: Peter Magyar gestures as he speaks to the media in Budapest, Hungary, on Monday. AP

Congratulations from across Europe poured in Monday for Hungarian political newcomer Peter Magyar, who defeated nationalist Viktor Orban in elections seen as a blow to right-wing populism worldwide.

Mr. Orban, a self-described "thorn" in the EU's side and defender of "illiberal democracy" endorsed by U.S. President Donald Trump, lost Sunday's elections after 16 years in power as Hungarians fed up with corruption gave Mr. Magyar a decisive victory.

Mr. Magyar's party, Tisza, won a thumping majority in the parliamentary elections, which drew record turnout and sent tens of thousands of jubilant supporters into the streets to celebrate as car horns sounded in the capital, Budapest.

Leaders across the EU welcomed Mr. Magyar's win, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who hailed a victory for the "values of the European Union", and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who called it a "heavy defeat" for "right-wing populism".

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Moscow hoped for "pragmatic" relations with Hungary's new leadership.

An almost complete vote count showed Tisza secured a two-thirds majority, with 138 seats in the 199-seat parliament on 53% of the vote, according to official election results. mR. Orban's Fidesz took 55 seats on 38% of the vote.

Turnout in the election reached a record 79.6%.

Mr. Trump had promised to bring U.S. "economic might" to Hungary if Mr. Orban's party won.

U.S. military 'blockades' Iran ports; Tehran threatens ports in region

U.S. President Donald Trump says any Iranian ship coming close 'to our blockade will be eliminated'; Tehran says security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman 'is either for everyone or for no one', adding no port in the region would be safe

Associated Press
CAIRO

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that the American military had begun a blockade of Iranian ports as part of his effort to force Tehran to open the Strait of Hormuz and accept a deal to end the war that has raged for more than six weeks.

Iran responded with threats on all ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, taking aim at U.S.-allied countries.

That set the stage for an extraordinary showdown that posed serious risks for the global economy and raised the spectre that a ceasefire that is currently holding could collapse and the war could resume.

A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft refuelling a U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft during Operation Epic Fury. AFP

Talks aimed at permanently ending the conflict – which began on February 28 with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran – failed to reach an agreement this past weekend, and there has been no word on whether negotiations will resume.

In Washington, Mr. Trump said the blockade started at 10 a.m. EDT.

"We can't let a country blackmail the world because that's what they're doing," Mr. Trump said of Iran.

Speaking outside the Oval Office, Mr. Trump suggested the U.S. is still willing to engage with Iran. "I can tell you that we've been called by the other side," Mr. Trump said.

He added: "We've been called this morning by the right people, the appropriate people, and they want to work a deal."

A notice to mariners issued by the U.K. Maritime Trade Operations agency said the restrictions included "the entirety of the Iranian coastline, including ports and energy infrastructure".

The U.S. military's Central Command announced that the blockade would be enforced "against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas". It said that would include all of Iran's ports on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

CENTCOM's decision to allow ships travelling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait was a step down from Mr. Trump's earlier threat to blockade the waterway.

In a social media message, Mr. Trump warned that "if any of these ships come anywhere close to our BLOCKADE, they will be immediately ELIMINATED."

Iran issued threats of its own. "Security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is either for everyone or for NO ONE," the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting reported on Monday. "NO PORT in the region will be safe," read a statement from the Iranian military and the Revolutionary Guard.

Israel says its troops surrounded key town in southern Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Monday its troops had completely surrounded a key town in southern Lebanon after killing more than 100 Hezbollah fighters there over the past week. The announcement marks a significant advance in Israel's ongoing invasion of southern Lebanon.

"The forces of the 98th Division have completed the encirclement of the town of Bint Jbeil and have begun an assault on it," the military's Arabic-language spokesperson Colonel Avichay Adraee said on X.

Over the past week, Israeli forces have killed more than 100 Hezbollah fighters in and around the town in "face-to-face" clashes and with air strikes, he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a Cabinet meeting that since Sunday the fighting in southern Lebanon had been "concentrated" in Bint Jbeil.

Israel's military added that it had struck around 150 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours, as the country prepares for peace talks.

Pope Leo says he is not afraid of U.S. after Trump's broadside

Reuters
WASHINGTON/ROME

U.S. President Donald Trump has criticised Pope Leo as "terrible" in a rare direct attack on the pontiff, who responded that he had "no fear" of the White House administration and would continue to denounce the horrors of war.

The President's comments came after the Pope had spoken out, with growing force, against the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the Trump administration's immigration policies.

"Pope Leo is WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy," Mr. Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social late on Sunday.

Pope Leo

Mr. Trump also posted an AI-generated image depicting himself as Jesus, with the U.S. flag and the Statue of Liberty in the background, which he later deleted after an outcry from religious leaders that he was being blasphemous.

Pope Leo, the first pontiff from the U.S., responded on Monday by saying he would keep raising his voice against conflict, adding that the Christian message, rooted in the primacy of peace, was being "abused".

It is extremely unusual for a Pope, who leads Catholics around the world, to answer a foreign leader publicly.

"I will continue to speak out loudly against war, looking to promote peace, promoting dialogue and multilateral relationships among the states to look for just solutions to problems," Pope Leo said.

READ
FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2026-27/557 - 67 — ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 017/2026-27 — Date : 13/04/2026
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.)
Construction of Bus Depot at Kekri. District-Ajmer. **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00031**	224.34 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
महाप्रबंधक

U.S., Israel met 'strategic defeat' in war, says Iranian envoy to India Mohammad Fathali

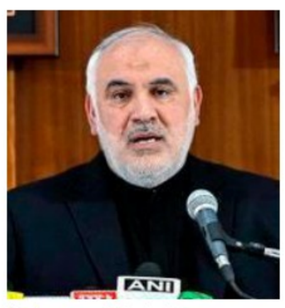
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The U.S.-Israel combine has met with a "strategic failure" in the war against Iran, the country's envoy to India, Mohammad Fathali, said on Monday.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the conclusion of the mourning period of 40 days that was announced after the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the bombing of a school in Minab on February 28 by the U.S.-Israel military coalition, Ambassador Fathali thanked the people of India and said Iran and India shared a "common fate". He said that India was not charged any toll for using the Strait of Hormuz.

"For us, diplomacy is the continuation of the holy struggle of defenders of Iran. We have not forgotten and will not forget ill intentions and breach of commitments by the United States. They attacked us when the negotiations were going on and killed our Supreme Leader. But they miscalculated and have met with a strategic defeat," Ambassador Fathali said.

Mr. Fathali counted several past instances, including the one on February 28, when the U.S. attacked Iran during diplomatic negotiations. He said the Strait of Hormuz, which is "part of Iran's territorial waters", was open before the war and added, "Hormuz is part of our capacities. In the near future, we will announce the mechanism of passage through the Strait of Hormuz."



Mohammad Fathali

Mr. Fathali said Iran went for talks in Islamabad with the American team as it was ready for negotiations, but the U.S. had come to the table with "unlawful demands". He highlighted reparation for the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran and sanctions relief as parts of the Iranian demands that will have to be met for any progress in negotiations.

'Ready for peace'

The talks held in Islamabad between the U.S. and Iran failed to yield an agreement though the ceasefire remains in place even as Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which was part of the ceasefire, continue to be reported.

"We are ready for peace, we are also ready for war," said the Ambassador adding: "Iran is a civilisation and civilisations don't die."

Ambassador Fathali said the Iranian side has maintained "good contact" with the Indian government and that Iran wished to help India deal with the chokepoint in Hormuz.

Iranian officials expressed hope that the negotiations will be revived in the coming weeks despite prevailing tension and thanked Indians for the outpouring of support.

THE HINDU GROUP

THE MAN IPL LEFT BEHIND

Once at the centre of cricket's power, Lalit Modi now watches from exile. In this interview, he reflects on the IPL's evolution and the compromises shaping its future.

ON STANDS NOW!

Also inside:
Mirabai Chanu pushes limits before a crucial weight-category shift, and Sai Sudharsan's old-school method proves that resisting T20 urgency can still deliver success.

Get your copy of
SPORTSTAR
#ALLINFORSPORTS

Scan or visit **newsth.live/SSSUB** to subscribe and read the latest edition: **'CREATOR. DISRUPTOR. EXILE.'**

NEVER IN DOUBT!

Praful's manifestation of a dream start turns true in dramatic fashion

NAGARA GOPAL

I did think about it [making a superb debut]. Last year, I had written somewhere that whenever I play my first match, I will definitely take four or five wickets. I wanted to dominate in the PowerPlay. I started playing cricket at the age of 13, and didn't even know what leather-ball cricket was back then — SRH's Praful Hinge.

ECSTATIC

Every player hopes for a debut like this, says Sunrisers' Sakib

NAGARA GOPAL

Every player hopes for a debut like this. I'm elated. Bowling coach Varun Aaron informed me a day before the game that I would be playing. From then on, my focus was on doing well. I prepared myself mentally to give my best. Whatever improvement you see in my bowling is because of Aaron — SRH pacer Sakib Hussain.

DAZZLING DUO

This was the right move: Kishan on picking Praful and Sakib

NAGARA GOPAL

You have to look at how hungry your young bowlers are and how motivated they feel. We had to give Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain a chance when we're playing at our home ground. They especially did well in the practice matches as well and I think this was the right move today — SRH captain Ishan Kishan.

CHANGE OF PLANS

GT-CSK fixtures swapped due to civic polls in Ahmedabad

R. RAGU

Citing municipal corporation elections in Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat on April 26, the BCCI on Monday swapped the IPL fixtures between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings. The afternoon fixture on April 26 will now be held in Chennai, while the evening match on May 21 will be hosted in Ahmedabad.

Debutants Praful, Sakib breathe fire for Sunrisers

The two scalp four each to shoot out Royals for 159 as the hosts hand the table-toppers their first loss of the season; Ferreira and Jadeja fight hard; Kishan comes up with a blistering knock

IPL-19

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

The restless, untested duo of Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain shared eight wickets on their debut to bowl Sunrisers Hyderabad to a 57-run win over Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2026 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Monday.

When handed the daunting task of taming the JaiSurya phenomenon, Praful came through spectacularly.

No bowler in the history of IPL had scalped three in the opening over, let alone a debutant, until the 24-year-old from Vidarbha came knocking.

After a single to get the 217-run chase going, Yashasvi Jaiswal could only watch helplessly as Praful rocked the Royals top-order. Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel and Lhuan-dre Pretorius walked back shell-shocked for ducks.

Sakib accounted for Jaiswal before Praful returned to send Riyan Parag trudging back to the dugout and took flight *a la* Shoaib Akhtar.

Ravindra Jadeja and Donovan Ferreira arrested the rapid slide with a risk-free century stand, helped generously by an opponent which took its foot off the pedal. However, Sakib returned to outfox Ferreira with a beautifully disguised slower ball.

Three deliveries later, Jadeja followed suit. Soon Sunrisers handed Royals their first defeat of the season.

Earlier, skipper Ishan Kishan's counterattacking 44-ball 91 powered SRH to 216 for six. Jofra Archer removed Abhishek Sharma for a golden duck and Travis Head perished after riding his luck.

But Kishan did the heavy lifting with a raucous home crowd swaying to his every move. Just 19 balls after reaching his 19th IPL fifty, Kishan surged into the nineties, hammering Archer for three consecutive boundaries.

A brief floodlight failure broke momentum, with Royals using it to remove the southpaw and Heinrich Klaasen.

Nitish Kumar then proved why the No. 5 spot should have never left him as he and Salil Arora plundered 24 runs off a Sandeep Sharma over – the most expensive of the night – pushing Sunrisers to a big total. Praful and Sakib then ran riot.

The heroes: Kishan's counterattacking 91 powered Sunrisers to a big total before rookie pacers Praful and Sakib blew away Royals. NAGARA GOPAL

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Abhishek Sharma c Bishnoi b Archer 0 *(1b)*, Travis Head c Ferreira b Parag 18 *(18b, 3x4)*, Ishan Kishan c & b Sandeep 91 *(44b, 8x4, 6x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Parag b Deshpande 40 *(26b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Nitish Kumar c Jurel b Archer 28 *(13b, 4x6)*, Salil Arora (not out) 24 *(13b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Aniket Verma run out 6 *(5b, 1x4)*, Harsh Dubey (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 216.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Abhishek, 0.1 overs), 2-55 (Head, 6.5), 3-143 (Kishan, 13.2), 4-162 (Klaasen, 15.5), 5-195 (Nitish, 18.3), 6-209 (Aniket, 19.4).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 4-0-37-2, Burger 4-0-31-0, Sandeep 4-0-52-1, Deshpande 4-0-55-1, Parag 1-0-5-1, Bishnoi 3-0-35-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Nitish b Sakib 1 *(5b)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi **(Impact Player for Sandeep)** c Salil b Praful 0 *(1b)*, Dhruv Jurel b Praful 0 *(2b)*, Lhuan-dre Pretorius c Nitish b Praful 0 *(2b)*, Riyan Parag c Abhishek b Praful 4 *(6b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Salil b Malinga 45 *(32b, 5x4)*, Donovan Ferreira b Sakib 69 *(44b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Jofra Archer c Praful b Sakib 2 *(5b)*, Tushar Deshpande c Kishan b Malinga 25 *(11b, 3x6)*, Ravi Bishnoi c Kishan b Sakib 0 *(1b)*, Nandre Burger (not out) 3 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-9): 10; Total (in 19 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Suryavanshi, 0.2), 2-1 (Jurel, 0.4), 3-1 (Pretorius, 0.6), 4-2 (Jaiswal, 1.4), 5-9 (Parag, 2.6), 6-127 (Ferreira, 14.6), 7-129 (Jadeja, 15.3), 8-140 (Archer, 16.5), 9-140 (Bishnoi, 16.6).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Praful 4-0-34-4, Sakib **(Impact Player for Head)** 4-0-24-4, Malinga 4-0-31-2, Shivang 3-0-28-0, Nitish 2-0-19-0, Harsh 2-0-22-0.

Toss: Royals; **PoM:** Praful.
SRH won by 57 runs.

Next assignment

SRH: April 18 vs. CSK Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

RR: April 19 vs. KKR Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

Revitalised CSK hosts bottom-placed KKR

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Until Saturday, Chennai Super Kings was like King Lear in the storm this IPL – once a Super King, reduced to battling, carrying only the memory of power. Like Lear, it seemed unsure of itself. Nowhere more so than at home, where it had lost six consecutive matches since last season.

But on Saturday, it was as if CSK had shaken itself awake. Like Odysseus reclaiming Ithaca, it reclaimed Chepauk – a home recognising its own again.

For the fans, the win over Delhi Capitals would have felt like a mirror wiped clean – suddenly, everything looked as it should. And that is how CSK would feel, too, as it takes on a winless Kolkata Knight Riders at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Tuesday.

Sanju Samson's return to form, Ayush Mhatre's fluency, the impact of debutant Gurjapneet Singh and Jamie Overton – both of whom delivered nagging, back-of-length pace – along with an effective Anshul Kamboj, were the key positives from the last match.

Concerns, however, remain around skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's form and Noor Ahmad not quite operating at his best, reflected in CSK's spin economy of 11.16, the second-worst this season.

While Dewald Brevis' return from injury has bolstered CSK's batting lineup, Dhoni's comeback, whenever it comes, would provide a turbo boost.

For KKR, the season has resembled the climb of Sisyphus – each push promising progress, only for the weight to roll back again.

While its stacked batting order has struggled with pacing across phases, its bowling reveals a clear imbalance. The seamers have struggled to contain, going at 11.40, the second-worst among all teams. The spinners have operated with a measure of control, conceding 9.27, better by comparison. Between control and excess, KKR oscillates, still searching for balance.

Sunil Narine's rhythm in the last outing, along with the prospect of Varun Chakaravarthy's return, should boost the bowling unit's confidence.

The macro-matchup here is delightfully simple: CSK's new-look, high-intent batting spine against KKR's spin core.

Heady stuff: Samson's form augurs well for CSK. R. RAGU

Today's match

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 31

CSK 20 | KKR 11

PREVIOUS MEETING

CSK won by two wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

One win can change everything: Allen

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

On the eve of their clash at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Jamie Overton and Kolkata Knight Riders opener Finn Allen emphasised adaptability and trust in process as crucial elements in navigating the demands of an IPL season. Overton, who impressed against Delhi Capitals, said the recent home victory has provided a timely boost for CSK.

"Chennai is a fabulous place to come and play. The support we get is phenomenal, and it was nice to finally get a win this season for the fans. Hopefully, we can build some momentum from here," said the Englishman.

He also underlined the importance of adjusting quickly to conditions, while crediting skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad for his game awareness.

"We go in with plans, but you have to assess quickly – adapting is crucial. It worked in the last game, but again, it depends on the conditions. Rutu is excellent at reading situations, so we trust his decisions and go with what he feels is best," he added.

Allen, meanwhile, remained unfazed by his modest returns so far. "It's only been a couple of games. I've had good starts, and hopefully a big one is around the corner," he said. On the unpredictable nature of T20 batting, he added: "When it comes off, it looks great; when it doesn't, it doesn't."

Both players stressed the importance of preparation and composure. "We've been doing the right things; one win can change everything," Allen observed; Overton, on the other hand, reiterated that success lies in "doing the basics well and adapting to conditions".

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	0	8	0.889
Punjab Kings	4	3	0	1	7	0.720
Royal Challengers	4	3	1	0	6	1.148
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	0.576
Delhi Capitals	4	2	2	0	4	0.322
Gujarat Titans	4	2	2	0	4	-0.029
Lucknow Super Giants	4	2	2	0	4	-0.427
Mumbai Indians	4	1	3	0	2	-0.772
Chennai Super Kings	4	1	3	0	2	-1.532
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315

Have the Impact Players lived up to the billing?

S. Shrivathsan

In a traditionally 11-a-side sport, the usage of the Impact Player (IP) rule has added a layer of uncertainty to a format that is already unpredictable, further testing the tactical nous of those involved in the IPL.

At the completion of 20 matches in the 19th edition of the premier domestic T20 tournament, we look at whether the players lived up to the billing and the think tanks acted smartly.

More misses than hits

There were more misses than hits in the early laps of the IPL 2026 race. Of the players who carried the IP tag, approximately only 33% managed to make match-influencing contributions.

In a phase where most of them failed to deliver the desired results, Delhi Capitals batter Sameer Rizvi and Rajasthan Royals (RR) leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi stood out with two game-changing performances each.

While Rizvi, walking out at No. 4, shone against Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians (MI), Bishnoi starred against Gujarat Titans and MI.

Royals the best

Royals have been spot on with their picks so far, and it is no surprise that the team from the Pink City is perched at the top of the table. The Rajasthan franchise could not have asked for more in what has been a dream start to the season.

It did not even require an IP in its opening match, saw Bishnoi produce back-to-back productive spells and enjoyed watching teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi launch an assault on the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) bowlers.

Rizvi. R.V. MOORTHY

There were more misses than hits in the early laps of the IPL 2026 race. Of the players who carried the IP tag, approximately only 33% managed to make match-influencing contributions

Lack of clarity

Teams like Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and MI, who are yet to hit their straps, can take a cue from RR since they are struggling with lack of clarity.

SRH used three different bowlers – David Payne, Eshan Malinga and Jaydev Unadkat – as IPs while fielding second in each of its first four games. In a bizarre turn of events, Sunrisers brought on Unadkat in the defeat to Punjab Kings after stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan had announced that Praful Hinge would come in.

As for MI, the five-time title-winner may have to revisit the entry point of Sherfane Rutherford, its IP in its last two chases. In the losses to RR and RCB, the West Indian only walked out when the match appeared to be drifting away from MI.

Indians preferred

Nearly 80% of the IPs were Indians, with Rutherford and Malinga being the only overseas players to be substituted in twice.

As the tournament progresses, teams will carry out course correction and expect more 'impact'.

INBRIEF

ICC increases Women's T20 WC prize pool by 10%

The ICC on Monday announced a record prize pool of $8,764,615 – an increase of 10% from the previous edition – for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, set to be held in England and Wales in two months. The total prize fund for the previous edition in the UAE stood at $7,958,077. The winner will take home $2,340,000, while the runner-up will receive $1,170,000. The losing semifinalists will earn $675,000, while every group match win will earn teams $31,154.

Sports Minister felicitates medal-winning para archers

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday felicitated the Indian contingent that delivered an outstanding performance at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok recently. The event witnessed participation from 21 countries and 113 athletes, with strong representation from Asian and Pan-American regions. India emerged as the top-performing nation, finishing first on the table with 13 medals, including seven gold, three silver, and three bronze.

BFC condemns alleged racial abuse of Blasters' Ndiaye

After Kerala Blasters formally raised the matter of alleged racial abuse of its defender Fallou Ndiaye during the match against Bengaluru FC here on Saturday, BFC released a statement on Monday condemning the incident. "Bengaluru FC are aware of a video circulating on social media showing racist remarks directed at a player of Kerala Blasters. Racism is unacceptable. We are working with the relevant authorities to identify the individual involved and will take appropriate action," the club stated.

Gruelling job: Rasikh being attended to by Patidar after suffering a bout of cramps. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Lengthy breaks defeat the purpose of T20s

The marquee clash between MI and RCB lasted four hours, 21 minutes; the match featured 11 reviews and at least five injury-related stoppages

IPL-19

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

If the Royal Challengers Bengaluru innings, which stretched to 121 minutes – more than half an hour beyond the scheduled 90 minutes – was T20 cricket moving at a snail's pace, worse was to follow at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday night.

After a 16-minute innings break, the Mumbai Indians chase lasted 124 minutes. The match eventually wrapped up nine minutes shy of midnight, taking the total duration to four hours and 21 minutes.

It was long enough to set social media abuzz, with fans debating whether the marquee IPL clash had outlasted several Indian films.

To be fair, Mumbai experienced one of the hottest days of the summer, with players battling dehydration and requiring frequent medical attention.

The match also featured 11 reviews and at least five injury-related stoppages, each contributing to the sluggish pace.

Yet, such prolonged interruptions defeat the very purpose of the T20 format and test the concentration of players at the crease. Sherfane Rutherford, whose fightback helped MI reduce the margin of defeat, admitted that maintaining focus amid repeated stoppages proved challenging.

Rutherford waited patiently as Rasikh Salam went down thrice in the 16th over before eventually heading back to the pavilion after the fifth ball – an over that epitomised the stop-start nature of the contest.

"That was the toughest part for me. Every time Rasikh bowls, he takes five minutes," Rutherford said.

"As a batter, you need momentum. Every time you have momentum, when there is a stop and start, it just keeps slowing up the game. It's something that no one can control. You just have to learn from it. Hopefully, next time, you just try to stay in the game or try some way of being ahead of the game."

With temperatures expected to rise further and a heatwave forecast later this week, extended T20 contests could become a recurring theme when MI hosts Punjab Kings on Thursday.

Gritty McIlroy hangs in to retain the Masters

Hard work pays! McIlroy hit his way out of trouble to relive the joy of wearing the green jacket. AFP

Agence France-Presse
AUGUSTA

Rory McIlroy overcame early stumbles and a late scare to win the Masters on Sunday, capturing his sixth Major title to become only the fourth back-to-back champion at Augusta National.

The World No. 2 from Northern Ireland made a double bogey at the fourth and a bogey at the sixth, but responded with four birdies in the next seven holes and hung on after woeful late tee shots to win a second green jacket and a record top prize of $4.5 million.

McIlroy joined Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only back-to-back winners in Masters history, firing a final round one-under-par 71 to finish on 12-under-par 276 and defeat top-ranked Scottie Scheffler by one stroke.

A year after winning his first Masters to complete a career Grand Slam and snap a 10-year Major win drought, McIlroy pulled off a wire-to-wire triumph.

"I just can't believe I waited 17 years to get one green jacket and you know I get two in a row. It's just sort of the way," McIlroy said. "I think all of my perseverance at this golf tournament over the years has really started to pay off."

Augusta National chairman Fred Ridley placed the green jacket on McIlroy, a role usually reserved for the prior year's Masters winner.

"It was a tough weekend. I did the bulk of my work on Thursday and Friday," McIlroy said. "But just so, so happy to hang in there and get the job done."

Tough going

McIlroy, third-from last in driving accuracy for the week, saved par at 15 from trees but sent his tee shot at the 18th over right trees to a spot near the adjacent 10th fairway.

With a victory at risk, McIlroy curled a dramatic approach around the pines and into a greenside bunker, then blasted onto the green to 12 feet and two-putted for bogey to secure the triumph.

McIlroy, 36, yelled with joy and lifted his arms into the air after the triumph and hugged daughter Poppy and wife Erica.

"It's nice to have that two-shot cushion instead of the one like I had last year," said McIlroy.

Scheffler, seeking his third Masters victory in five seasons, was on 277 after shooting a 68 to complete a bogey-free weekend.

"Over the weekend I put up a good fight, did a lot of good stuff in order to give myself a chance and ultimately came up a couple shots short," Scheffler said.

Four-way tie

England's Tyrrell Hatton and 45-year-old Justin Rose and Americans Russell Henley and Cameron Young shared third on 278.

Rose, the 2013 US Open champion, settled for another near miss after three runner-up Masters finishes. "I felt like there was an opportunity to do better, so obviously that's frustrating," Rose said.

The scores (top five): 276: Rory McIlroy 67-65-73-71; **277:** Scottie Scheffler 70-74-65-68.
278: Russell Henley 73-71-66-68, Justin Rose 70-69-69-70, Tyrrell Hatton 74-66-72-66, Cameron Young 73-67-65-73; **279**: Collin Morikawa 74-69-68-68, Sam Burns 67-71-68-73.
280: Max Homa 72-70-71-67, Xander Schauffele 70-72-70-68.

After a near-perfect week at Badminton Asia C'ships, Ayush hopes to take the next big step

Devyanshi Bihani

Ayush Shetty capped a breakthrough week with a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships after going down 8-21, 10-21 to World No. 2 Shi Yuqi of China in the final in Ningbo on Sunday.

The 20-year-old thus became the first Indian men's singles player in six decades to reach this stage of the continental meet. More significantly, he did so by beating three top-10 players in a week – a level of consistency no Indian man has achieved.

Gulf in class: Shi, right, showed Ayush there is a lot to improve. AFP

Ayush combined early interceptions, steep angles while attacking and improved composure to defeat Li Shifeng, Jonatan Christie and Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

The wins were not built on outright aggression alone. There was great control in rally construction, a willingness to wait for openings, and sharp decision-making in pressure phases. Those were most evident in the tight quarterfinal against Christie and the comeback last-four win over Vitidsarn.

In the final, however, Shi dictated the contest from the outset. He was controlling the length, varying the pace and repeatedly targeting the body and central channels to deny Ayush the space to unleash his attacks. The Indian fell behind early, and a string of unforced errors meant he was chasing the match throughout.

"A bit disappointed... Shi was by far the better player today (Sunday). He really kept the pressure and never let me come back," Ayush admitted.

Ayush's coach Sagar Chopda felt that there was a drop in patience in the title decider compared to earlier rounds. "In the previous matches, Ayush was ready to grind and wait for the right opportunity. In the final, he was a bit impatient. The first few points were very straightforward. He almost gifted them away," Sagar said.

At 6'4", Ayush fits the physical profile of the modern men's singles player. His 'cannon' smash is already a major weapon, but what stood out last week was the development around it – a tighter net play, quicker transitions from defence to attack, and improved emotional control after visible frustrations on court earlier this season.

But, the final exposed some areas of growth. "There is a lot of learning... I have to work on my endurance, strength and variations from the back," Ayush said.

For all that, the takeaway from Ningbo remains positive. "I had a tough draw...I think it was a really good week for me. I had some great wins. I am really proud of the way I played".

Rathika.

Indian Squash Tour in Chennai from Thursday

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The HCL Indian Squash Tour will be held in Chennai from April 16 to 20, bringing together 48 players from seven nations at the Indian Squash Academy.

Organised in partnership with the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) and supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the five-day PSA Challenger event offers world ranking improvement opportunities, along with a prize purse of $6,000 each in the men's and women's draws.

The Chennai leg will feature a mix of international players and emerging PSA talent across both draws.

Sri Lanka's Ravindu Laksiri and India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan are set to lead the men's and women's categories, respectively, while Egypt's Ahmed Said Sobhy, Malaysia's Harleein Tan, and Korea's Mingyeong Heo add depth to the competition.

Plans afoot to bring back Formula One to India in 2027

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian government is keen on getting Formula One back in the country at the earliest possible with sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya confirming that talks were on with the various stakeholders about the same.

Mandaviya claimed that India's return to the grid could be as early as next year although it looks unlikely given the logistics, scheduling and formalities involved.

"Three companies have expressed interest in operating the Buddha International Circuit (Noida) and organising the race. There are things to be worked out including infrastructure and taxation issues.

"We have the tracks across India and hope to work out the details in the next 3-6 months," the minister said during an interaction here on Monday.

However given that the present Formula One calendar already has 19 confirmed races and 23 on the wait list with at least three expected to be added, 2027 seems improbable although Formula One owners agree India is a country of interest.

Inter Milan all but wraps up Serie A title

Dumfries did the star turn as his second-half strikes sealed Inter's win over Como. AFP

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Inter Milan put one hand on the Serie A title on Sunday after coming back from two goals down to win 4-3 in a thrilling match at Como and move nine points clear of Napoli, which could only draw 1-1 at Parma.

Trailing by two in the dying moments of the first half due to goals from Alex Valle and youthful virtuoso Nico Paz, Inter looked set to give champion Napoli hope its Scudetto defence might still be alive.

But Marcus Thuram brilliantly poked home Nicolo Barella's cross in stoppage time at the end of the opening half before the France forward pounced on a mix-up between Como goalkeeper Jean Butez and defender Marc-Oliver Kempf to loop home the leveller moments after the break.

Denzel Dumfries bulleted home Hakan Calhanoglu's perfectly delivered free-kick in the 58th minute and then completed the turnaround at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia by coolly guiding home Manuel Akanji's knock-down 14 minutes later.

With six matches remaining in the season, Inter has a near-unassailable lead at the top of the table, while Como's first defeat in two months left it outside the Champions League positions. Liam Rosenior admitted Chelsea is in a "difficult place" after Sunday's dismal 0-3 defeat against Manchester City piled pressure on the Blues boss.

Rosenior's side conceded three times in the second half as Nico O'Reilly, Marc Guehi and Jeremy Doku netted for title-chasing City.

Chelsea is languishing in sixth place in the Premier League, four points behind fifth-placed Liverpool in the race for a top-five finish. Pep Guardiola's team, on the other hand, moved to within six points of leader Arsenal.

Top results: LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 1 (Guruzeta 84) lost to Villarreal 2 (Cardona 26, Alfon 45+5).
Serie A: Como 3 (Alex Valle 24, Paz 45, Da Cunha 89-pen) lost to Inter 4 (Thuram 45+1, 49, Dumfries 58, 72); Bologna 2 (Freuler 26, Orsolini 90+2) bt Lecce 0.
Bundesliga: Mainz 0 lost to Freiburg 1 (Hoeler 47).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL (SECOND LEG)

Atletico Madrid vs. Barcelona *(Atletico leading 2-0)*; **Liverpool vs. PSG** *(PSG leading 2-0)*; **[***both matches at 12.30 a.m., Wednesday***]**.
Arsenal vs. Sporting CP *(Arsenal leading 1-0)*; **Bayern Munich vs. Real Madrid** *(Bayern leading 2-1); [both matches at 12.30 a.m., Thursday].*

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kemp FC Juniors posts win

Kemp FC Juniors defeated Reds United FC 2-0 in the KSFA 'A' division women's football league on Monday.
The results: Kemp FC Juniors bt Reds United FC 2-0; Technico bt GRK Girls FC 8-0; YBEFC bt Shree Renuka FC 1-0.

Blue Star HC gets full points

Blue Star HC took out Bellary District HA 3-1 in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league here on Monday.

Rajajinagar to meet Shantinagar for honours

Rajajinagar edged out R.R. Nagar 3-2 in the semifinal of the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament here.
The results (semifinals): Rajajinagar 3 (Kavi Arasan 34, 77, Surya Prakash 83) bt R.R. Nagar 2 (B. Pavan 79, R. Michael 90+4); Shantinagar 1 (S. Magesh 53) bt K.R. Puram 0.

Mandara stars for Mysore District 'A'

Mandara (27 points) powered Mysore District 'A' past Young Orions 56-48 in the semifinal league of the State women's basketball league championship here.
Semifinal league: Mysore District 'A' 56 (Mandara 27, Kusuma 10) bt Young Orions 48 (Sarayu 12); Beagles BC 64 (Aadhya 20, Swathi 19) bt DYES Vidyanagar 55 (Deepika 17, Nireeksha 13).
Mysore District 'A' 67 (Mandara 16, Kusuma 15) bt DYES Vidyanagar 44 (Ishitha 18, Deepika 13); Young Orions 52 (Bindu 17, Sarayu 14) bt Beagles BC 39 (Saanvi 12, Swathi 10).